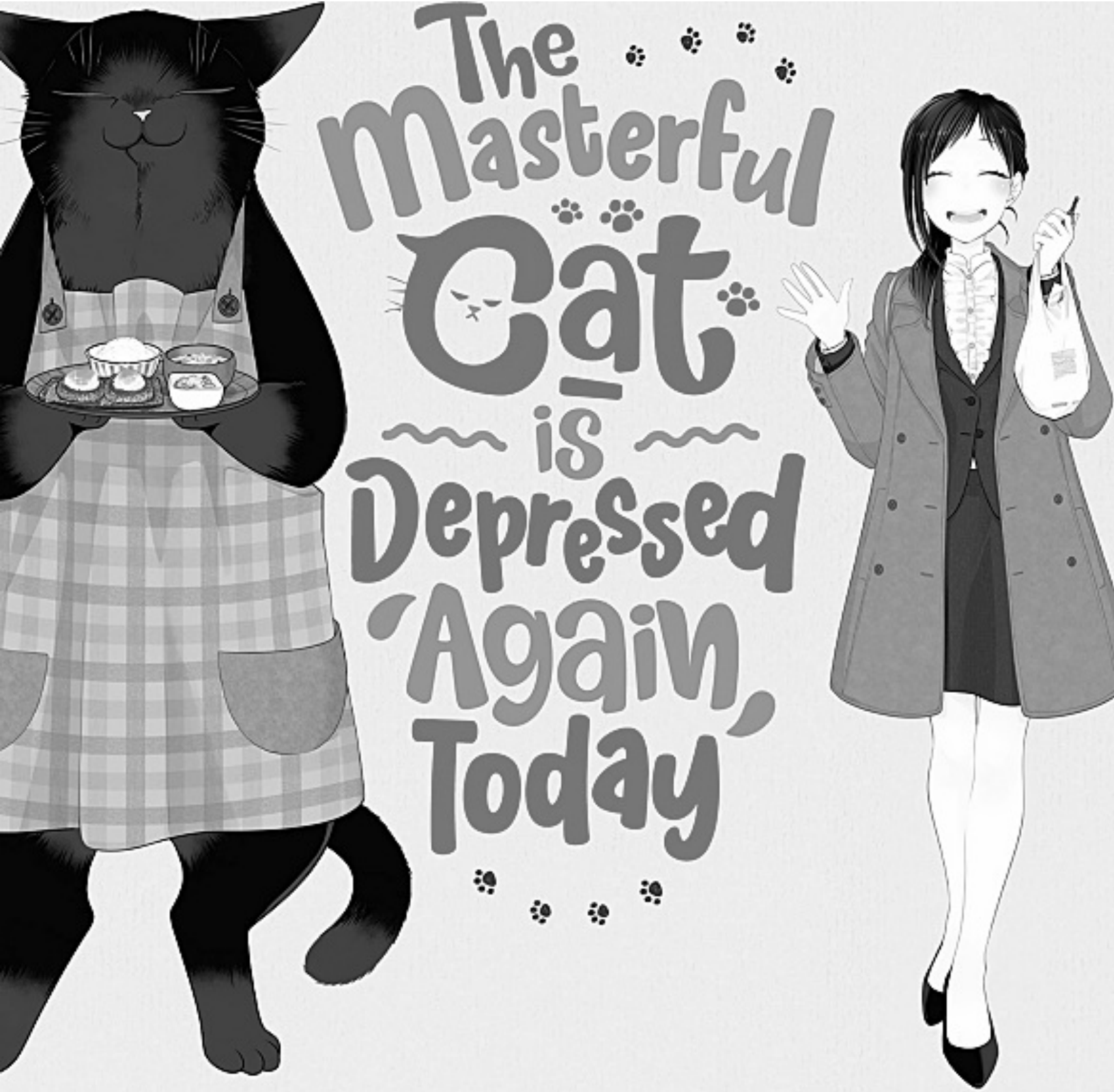

The Masterful Cat is Depressed Again Today

5

Story and Art by
Hitsuzi Yamada

The Masterful Cat is Depressed Again Today 5
By Hifusui Yamada

The Masterful Cat is Depressed Again Today

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BONUS
THE MASTERFUL CAT'S AGONY 105

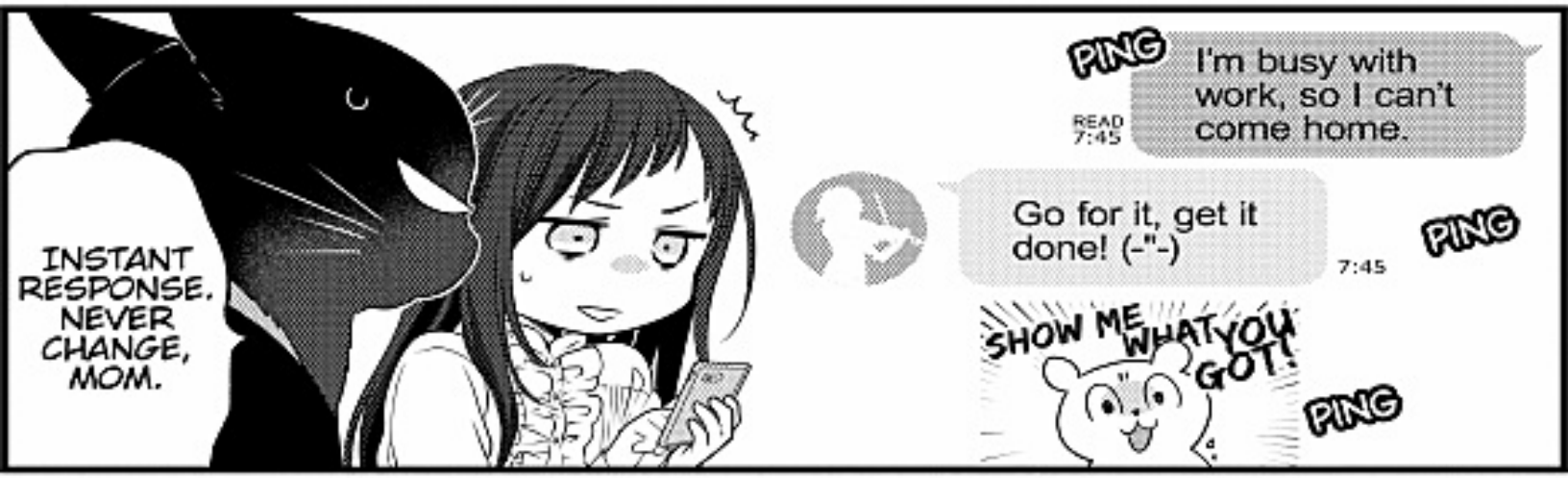
JUST FORTY-EIGHT MORE HOURS...
SHWF
TWO MORE DAYS... TWO MORE DAYS UNTIL THE LAST MEETING OF THE YEAR...

THUMP!
?!
THUD
THUD
THUD
ARGH...
AND I CAN FINALLY SPEND THE NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY...
RELAXING AT HO--

FWOO
WHAT'S WRONG, YUKICHI?

WHAT?!
AN URGENT LETTER FROM HOME?!
おろ PANIC
おろ PANIC
Dad is gravely ill. Come home by dinnertime 12/31. This is urgent.
Mom

BUT THEY'RE NOT EVEN HOME ON NEW YEAR'S EVE MOST OF THE TIME. AREN'T THEY USUALLY WORKING OR VISITING THEIR NEIGHBORS?
SHE EVEN SENT A POST-CARD.
SHE JUST WANTS ME TO COME HOME FOR THE HOLIDAYS, DOESN'T SHE?
WAIT. THAT'S NEW YEAR'S EVE.


INSTANT RESPONSE. NEVER CHANGE, MOM.
PING
I'm busy with work, so I can't come home.
READ 7:45
Go for it, get it done! (-"-)
7:45
PING
SHOW ME WHAT YOU GOT!
PING

NO WAY!!
PING
Also, I can't just leave Yukichi by himself... ((+_+))
READ 7:45
Why not leave him at a pet hotel? (゜Д゜)
7:45

THAT'S EVEN WORSE!
7:45
Okay fine (Δ')ゞ Dad and I will come over to your place then.
7:45
LOOKING FORWARD TO IT!
PING
7:45
PING

YOU'RE TELLING ME THAT AFTER WORKING MYSELF RAGGED, I HAVE TO DRAG MY BROKEN, WEARY BODY THROUGH HOLIDAY TRAFFIC?!
EEK!
BONK
ぽふっ
NOOOOO! SHE'S GOTTA BE JOKING, RIGHT?!
THEIR HOUSE?! FOR NEW YEAR'S?!
IT'S A THREE-HIT COMBO OF DISAPPOINT-MENT!!
MY PARENTS ARE GONNA BE ALL, "SO-AND-SO JUST HAD THEIR THIRD GRANDKID!" "WHEN'RE YOU GETTING MARRIED?" "YOU STILL DON'T HAVE A BOY-FRIEND?"
EVEN WORSE THAN THE TRAFFIC, IS KNOWING WHAT LIES IN WAIT ONCE I GET THERE.
IT'S ALL RUINED!!
ぱぢ
BWSH
NOOO!! MY NEW YEAR'S PLANS!! MY DREAMS OF LOAFING AROUND AT HOME, MUNCHING ON YOUR SPECIAL NEW YEAR'S SOBA AND OZŌNI* WHILE WATCHING THE NEW YEAR'S SPECIAL ON TV!
GRR
THEY'RE REALLY PULLING OUT ALL THE STOPS!
.....
SAVE... ME...
IF YOU DON'T COME HOME, NEW YEAR'S MIGHT BE DAD'S LAST DAY ON EARTH~!
SQUEAL
SQUEAL

*Ozōni is a soup with mochi in it, traditionally eaten during New Year's.

WHAT'S WITH THE SUDDEN CHANGE OF PLANS?
YOU TWO ARE NORMALLY BUSY DURING THE NEW YEAR'S HOLIDAY.
WELL, WE'RE GETTING OLD, YOU KNOW, SO WE'VE BEEN THINKING ABOUT TAKING THINGS EASY FOR A WHILE NOW.
SO, A COUPLE DAYS AGO WE DECIDED TO JUST DO IT!
PLUS, WE ALMOST NEVER SPEND NEW YEAR'S TOGETHER, JUST THE THREE OF US.
AT OUR AGE, WHO KNOWS HOW MANY GOOD YEARS WE HAVE LEFT?
IT MIGHT BE TOO LITTLE, TOO LATE...
BUT I'D LIKE THE THREE OF US TO SPEND TIME TOGETHER WHILE WE STILL CAN.
NGH...
OKAY, I GET IT. I'LL COME VISIT SOON, I PROMISE, BUT RIGHT NOW--
I MEAN, IF YOU HAVE PLANS TO TAKE A TRIP WITH YOUR BOYFRIEND OR SOMETHING, THEN I WOULD TOTALLY UNDER-STAND.
?

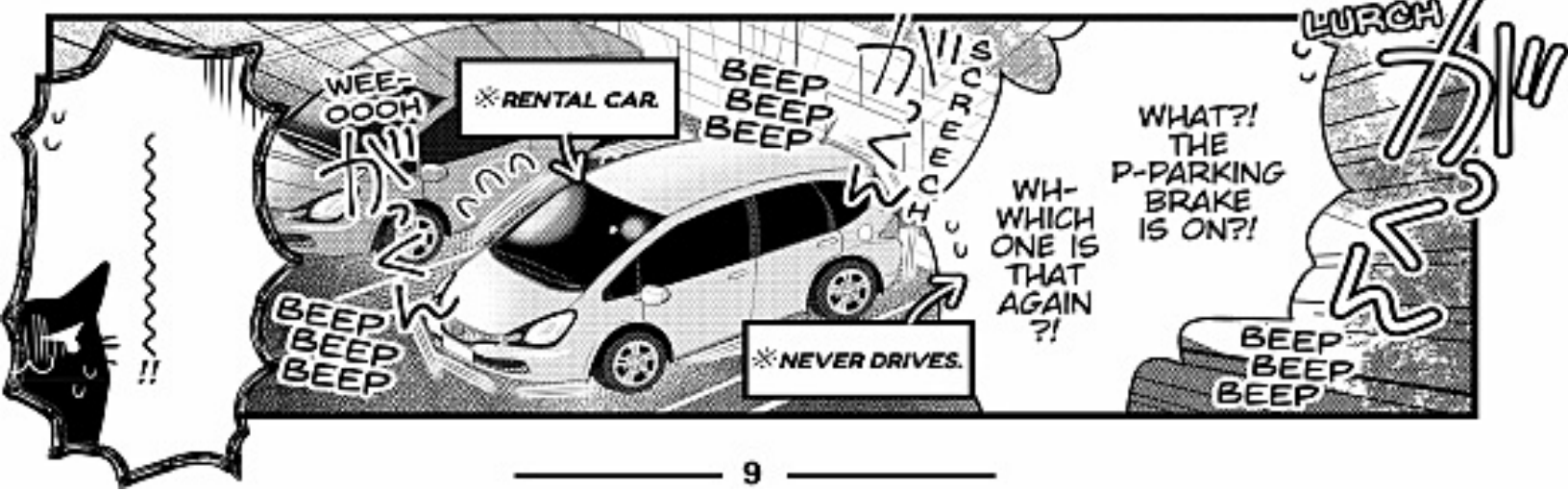
THAT'S IT. IT'S OVER.
WHUMP
MY NEW YEAR'S DREAM IS DEAD.
AND SO AM I.
TSK!
I HAVE TO GO BACK HOME...?
AND LEAVE YUKICHI?
JUST LIKE DURING THE COMPANY RETREAT...
HE'LL BE...
HOME ALONE...
WAAAH!
?!

I WONDER IF I COULD BRING YUKICHI IF HE GOES IN DISGUISE.
TO GET HOME, I NEED TO TAKE THE BULLET TRAIN AND THEN A REGULAR TRAIN FOR TWO AND A HALF HOURS...
?
?
PUT-PUT
PUT-PUT
RUMBLE
RATTLE
I CAN'T DO IT.
I CAN'T. I JUST CAN'T. NO WAY. ABANDON HIM AND LEAVE? THAT'S BEYOND IMPOSSIBLE.
RATTLE
YUKICHI WILL STAND OUT TOO MUCH SINCE BUSES OUT IN THE COUNTRY DON'T HAVE MANY PASSENGERS!!
BUT I'LL STILL NEED TO TAKE A BUS FROM THE STATION WHEN I GET THERE...
SOMEONE CALL ANIMAL CONTROL!
ヒーッ EEEK!
AAH! THERE'S A BEAR ON THE BUS!
ギャあ AAGH!
ギャあ AAGH!
IT'LL TAKE LONGER, BUT I THINK WE'D NEED TO TAKE THE REGULAR TRAINS ALL THE WAY THERE.
NO, TOO FEW STOPS ON THE BULLET TRAIN. IF WE'RE FOUND OUT, THERE'S NOWHERE TO RUN.
RUMBLE
EXCUSE ME? ARE YOU ALL RIGHT?
SO THAT MEANS...
ガタタ
RATTLE
I'LL HAVE TO GO WITH THE BACKUP PLAN!!

HEY, YUKICHI?
READY TO GO?

CLUNCK
RUSTLE

SHAKE ふる
SHAKE ふる
READY ENOUGH.
OKAY, LET'S ROLL OUT!


!!
WEE-OOOH
※RENTAL CAR.
BEEP BEEP BEEP
SCREECH
BEEP BEEP BEEP
※NEVER DRIVES.
WH-WHICH ONE IS THAT AGAIN?!
WHAT?! THE P-PARKING BRAKE IS ON?!
LURCH
BEEP BEEP BEEP

HM?
WHAT ARE YOU HOLDING? A BOOK...?
BWSH
?
THE CAT WITH A MILLION LIVES
OH, DON'T BE SO DRAMATIC!! NO ONE'S DYING TODAY!
ALSO, DON'T CATS ONLY HAVE NINE LIVES?!

CAN 48 END

HNGH!
WE'RE LUCKY THERE'S NO SNOW ON THE ROADS RIGHT NOW.
AHHHH! FINALLY, FAMILIAR ROADS!
KA-CHAK
STAGGER
STAGGER

49 CAN 49

SEE?
THAT WASN'T SO BAD, NOW WAS--

SLUMP
DID YOU GET... SKINNIER?
ARE YOU FEELING CARSICK? FRESH AIR WILL HELP.
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE

I DECIDED TO BRING HIM WITH ME IN HEAT OF THE MOMENT...
BUT HOW AM I GOING TO EXPLAIN THIS TO MOM AND DAD?
ALSO...
I HAVE HEARD THAT CATS DON'T LIKE LEAVING THEIR TERRITORY.
I'M IMPRESSED HE AGREED TO COME AT ALL.
UGH...
くったり...
!!
I WANT ONE TOO~!
WOW! I WONDER IF IT'S ONE OF THOSE COSTCO BEARS THEY SHOWED ON TV?
MAMA, LOOK! THERE'S A BIG STUFFED ANIMAL IN THAT CAR!
VROOOOM
HM? WAS THAT...
FUKU-ZAWA-SENSEI'S DAUGHTER, SAKU-CHAN?
YOU KNOW WHAT, LET'S JUST NOT TELL THEM AT ALL!
IF I TELL THEM THE TRUTH, THERE'S NO GOING BACK!
SLAM!
カシャ CLICK
カシャ LOCK

YUKICHI?
WHEN WE GET THERE, CAN YOU SNEAK UP ONTO THE BALCONY ON THE SECOND FLOOR AND HIDE?
NOD
?
OH.
DID I NOT TELL YOU?
MY PARENTS SAID THEY WERE TAKING TIME OFF WORK...
BUT THERE MIGHT BE STUDENTS DROPPING BY TO WISH THEM HAPPY NEW YEAR.
?!
MY MOM IS A VIOLINIST ...
AND MY DAD IS A PROFES-SIONAL SHOGI* PLAYER.
BUT THEY'RE BASICALLY RETIRED NOW, SO THEY JUST GIVE LESSONS TO KIDS.
WELL, MY MOM STILL DOES CONCERTS SOMETIMES.
I THINK, BECAUSE THEY BOTH REALLY LOVE THE WORK THEY DO...
THEY PLANNED ON WORKING THEIR WHOLE LIVES.
HEE HEE.
WEIRD, RIGHT?
THAT A MEDIOCRE, AIMLESS PERSON LIKE ME WOULD HAVE PARENTS LIKE THEM...

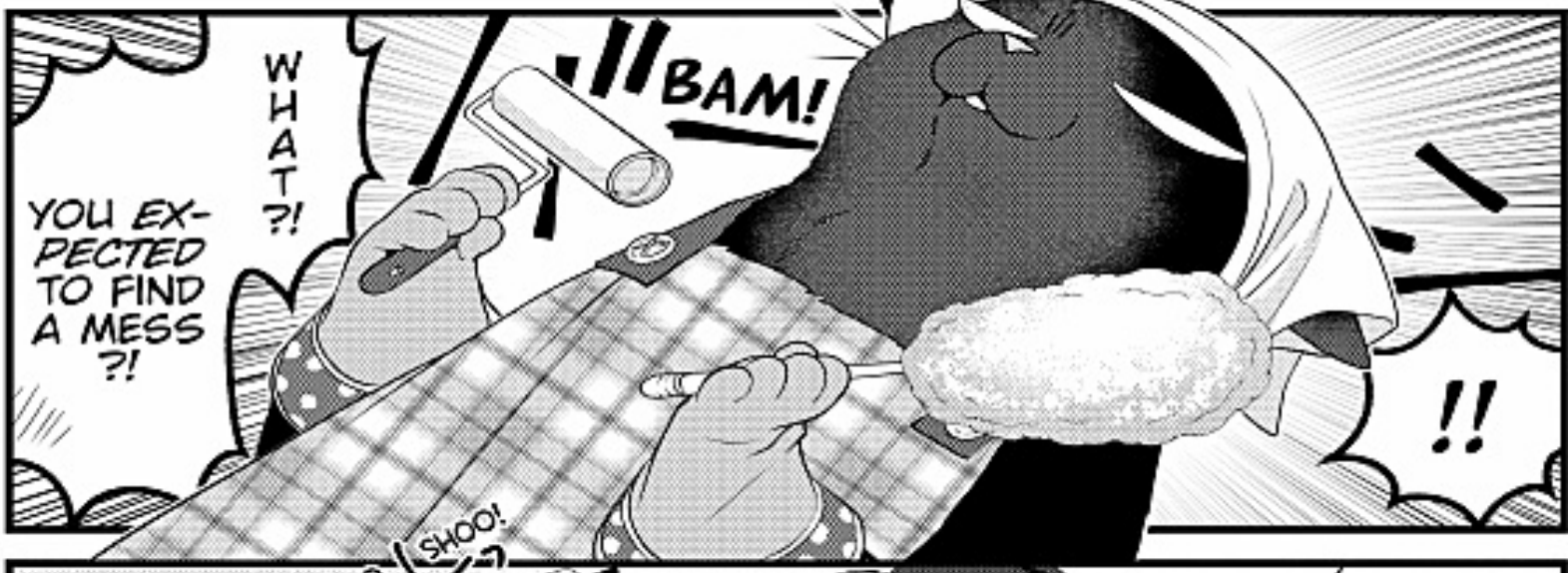
*Shogi is a Japanese game similar to chess.

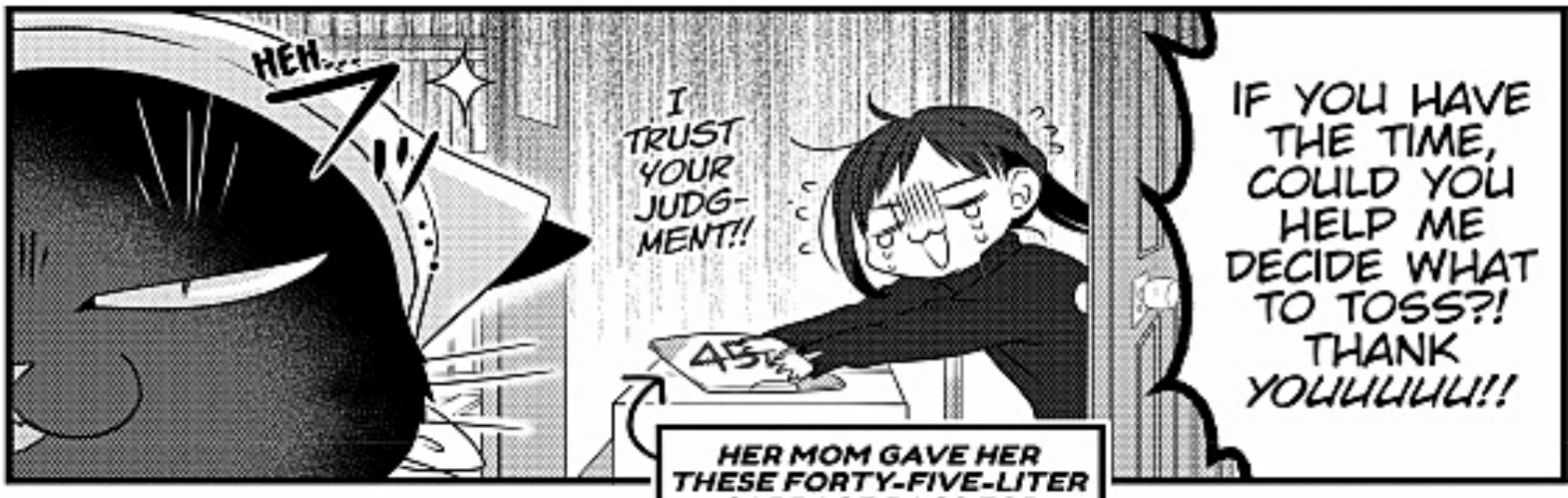
WE'RE HERE!
PHEW...
WHOA!
HIK!
FLINCH
STOMP
STOMP
SLAM
STOMP
STOMP
BA-DMP
BA-DMP
BA-DMP
BA-DMP
HAAH!
.....
YOU'RE EARLY.
CALM
WELCOME HOME!
THANKS, DAD...
SURE DOESN'T LOOK LIKE YOU'RE DYING.

SNEAK
SNEAK
.....
I NEVER THOUGHT I'D SEE THE DAY WHEN MY LITTLE SAKU WOULD DRIVE A CAR!
YOU DROVE HERE?
Y-YEAH, I RENTED A CAR.
OH!
AS FOR YOUR ROOM...
I OPENED THE WINDOWS A BIT TO AIR THINGS OUT. CLOSE THEM WHEN YOU GET UP THERE.
I'M OVER HERE.
THANKS, MOM!
YOU. OPENED. THE WINDOWS! FOR ME.
"OKAY, YUKICHI. WHEN WE GET THERE...
SNEAK...
KER-CHAK
OKAY.
HURRY UP AND GET INSIDE. IT'S COLD OUT.

"THERE SHOULD BE A TREE RIGHT BY THE BALCONY.
!
"YOU'RE GONNA SNEAK AROUND TO THE BACKYARD.
"ONCE YOU CLIMB ONTO THE BALCONY...
SHUFFLE
GRAB
SHUFFLE
"I WANT YOU TO CLIMB UP THERE AND HIDE, THEN WAIT FOR ME.
SHWOO...
"YOU'LL SEE...
"MY OLD ROOM."
I CAN ALREADY HEAR YUKICHI'S HEAVY SIGH.
OH NO!
OF COURSE I DID.
YOU JUST LEFT MY ROOM THE WAY IT WAS WHEN I MOVED OUT?!
HRK!
NOW THAT YOU'RE FINALLY HOME,
AH, YES.
YOU SHOULD CLEAN UP YOUR ROOM, TOO.

CRINKLE
ちゃ
STEP...
……
CRINKLE
ちゃ...
THROW OUT
I KNEW IT!!
SIIIIIIIIG
...HG
CREAK...
HELLO, YUKICHI-SAN...? HAVE YOU MADE IT INTO THE ROOM SAFE AND SOUND...?





HER MOM GAVE HER THESE FORTY-FIVE-LITER GARBAGE BAGS FOR THIS EXACT PURPOSE.

CAN YOU GRAB THE PLATES AND THE TUB FOR THE SUSHI RICE?
OKAY.
WHERE'S DAD?
HE GOT A CALL FROM ONE OF HIS STUDENTS.
MUST BE TOUGH BEING A SHOGI MASTER.
I COULD SAY THE SAME TO YOU.
I HOPE YOU'RE WORKING HARD UP THERE.
I AM WORKING HARD!
MUST BE TOUGH CLEANING THAT ROOM OF YOURS.
WELL, YUKI-CHI'S WORKING HARD.
CLATTER THUMP THUD
?!
WHAT WAS THAT?! SOUNDS LIKE IT CAME FROM YOUR BEDROOM.
OH YEAH!!
PROBABLY THE SOUND OF MY LUGGAGE FALLING OVER!!
HA HA HA!
HE'S WORKING A LITTLE TOO HARD!!

I'M SURE IT'S NOTHING!
I BET IT'S JUST THE OL' HOUSE CREAKING, RIGHT?!
LET'S TURN ON THE TV!!
IS SOME-THING WRONG?
HONEY! THERE WAS A SOUND UPSTAIRS...
NOTHING, THIS JUST REMINDS ME OF WHEN YOU WERE IN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL. YOU SAID SOMETHING SIMILAR BACK THEN.
REALLY ?!
I DON'T REMEMBER THIS!
WHAT?!
HEE HEE.
IT MADE A RUCKUS UPSTAIRS AND IT BECAME THIS WHOLE THING. YOUR MOM GAVE YOU AN EARFUL THAT DAY, HA HA!
!!
AH!
YOU BROUGHT HOME THIS WILD PIGLET, THINKING IT WAS A PUPPY. YOU WERE GOING TO SECRETLY RAISE IT IN YOUR ROOM.
OH, YOU KNOW
?
I WOULD HOPE SO!!
CLATTER
WELL, I'D NEVER DO SOMETHING LIKE THAT NOW!!

SCRUB
SORT
WIPE
WIPE
THROW OUT
RUSTLE
CLATTER
KNOCK KNOCK
YUKICHI? I'M COMING IN.
SHWF

KA-CHAK
ガチャ
THERE WAS A TON OF SASHIMI, SO I BROUGHT SOME.
MOM AND DAD ARE PASSED OUT.
※NEITHER OF THEM CAN HANDLE THEIR ALCOHOL.
PFFFFF!!
Commendation Honor Fukuzawa
Certificate
Commendation Fukuzawa Saku
GRIN
ニヤ
WHERE... WHERE THE HELL DID THESE COME FROM?!
OH MY GOD, TAKE THEM DOWN! THIS IS TOO EMBARRASS-ING!!
IT'S NOT WHAT YOU THINK!
THIS IS ALL A PART OF A DARK TIME IN MY PAST!!
TA-DA

I SEE YOU'VE OPENED THE PANDORA'S BOX OF MY CHILDHOOD TRAUMAS, HUH?
SIGH...
NOTICE SOMETHING ABOUT THESE AWARDS? THEY'RE ALL FOR DIFFERENT THINGS, RIGHT?
THERE'S VIOLIN, PIANO, SWIMMING... SHOGI, KARATE, ART, TENNIS... ALSO GO AND AIKIDO...
I KEPT JUMPING BETWEEN A BUNCH OF DIFFERENT THINGS.
?
THROW OUT
BUT NO MATTER WHAT I TRIED, THE BEST I COULD DO WAS "HONORABLE MENTION," OR FOURTH PLACE AT A SMALL CONTEST.
OF COURSE, BOTH MY PARENTS WERE SUPER SUPPORTIVE OF ME NO MATTER WHAT...
BUT I COULDN'T STOP THINKING ABOUT WHAT OTHER PEOPLE THOUGHT OF ME.
I WAS ABSOLUTELY PETRIFIED AT THE IDEA THAT SOMEONE MIGHT LOOK AT ME AND SAY, "SHE'S NOTHING LIKE HER PARENTS. SHE HAS NO TALENT AT ALL."
BOTH OF MY PARENTS MADE CAREERS OUT OF THEIR NATURAL GIFTS...
SO I WAS CONVINCED THAT I SHOULD, TOO.
IN THE END, I FLED MY HOMETOWN AND GOT A REGULAR OFFICE JOB.
BUT AT THE TIME, I WAS ADAMANT THAT I HAD TO BE GREAT AT SOMETHING.
STUNNED
あわわ...
AND...
I WAS SUFFOCATING UNDER THE PRESSURE.
...

!
BUT EVEN THOUGH IT WAS SUCH A BIG DEAL TO ME THEN, I'VE COMPLETELY FORGOTTEN ABOUT ALL THAT LATELY.
AND IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU, YUKICHI!
STAGGER...
...
EH? WHAT'S THE MATTER?
IT'S COLD, BUT THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO SHOW YOU.
LET'S GO OUT ONTO THE BALCONY!
SHOOT!
IT'S ALMOST THE NEW YEAR! WE'RE GONNA MISS IT!
FWOOO
LOOK!

YAAAY!
アアアア...
GONG
GONG
GONG
.....!
IT'S OFFICIALLY THE NEW YEAR!
MAN, I REALLY WISH I COULD HAVE SOME OF YOUR OZONI RIGHT ABOUT NOW.
GONG
GONG
YOU SHOULD MAKE SOME WHEN WE GET HOME.
WITH SEAWEED IN IT!

FUSH
GOTTA--
.....
TP
TP
GOTTA PEE, GOTTA PEE...
YAWN
I WONDER IF SAKU IS ALREADY ASLEEP.
FLINCH
ビクッ!!
?!
BEER
THWUMP
WHAT WAS THAT NOISE, YU--
ACK!
DING
ぺゅ
DAD ?!
DAAAAD!!

NEXT MORNING.
SAKU, YOU'RE NOT GOING TO BELIEVE WHAT YOUR FATHER SAW LAST NIGHT! APPARENTLY, THERE WAS A BEAR WEARING AN APRON IN THE HOUSE!!
IT CAME OUT OF THE BATHROOM ON THE SECOND FLOOR!
THE NEXT THING I REMEMBER IS WAKING UP IN MY BED...
OH, SO THIS BEAR GENTLY CARRIED YOU BACK TO YOUR ROOM AND TUCKED YOU IN?
HOW NICE OF HIM! AH HA HA HA!
MAYBE YOU SHOULD CUT BACK ON THE ALCOHOL, HONEY!!!
YOU DON'T BELIEVE ME?!
SORRY FOR THE SCARE, DAD!! (ALSO, YUKICHI DID CARRY YOU TO BED.)
CAN 49 END

The Masterful Cat is Depressed Again, Today

50 CAN 50
……
カラ…
CRUSH…
TWINKLE
?!
TWINKLE
POOMF
!!
GLiNT
SHWOO…

.....
BROUGHT SOME FOR YUKICHI.
CRUNCHY
SEAWEED
ATE BREAKFAST DOWNSTAIRS.
POMF
POMF
HE'S PLAYING IN THE SNOW!!
HE...
FREEZE...
OOPS.
I GUESS HE HASN'T SEEN THIS MUCH SNOW SINCE HE WAS STILL A LITTLE KITTEN.
HE HASN'T NOTICED ME YET EITHER!
SEAWEED
WAIT, I GUESS IT'S NOT A CAVE IF HE'S OUTSIDE!
HE RETREATED BACK INTO HIS CAVE!!
A'HHH!
SHWAP!

JEEZ.
YOUR PADS ARE ALL RED!
YOU'RE GONNA GET FROSTBITE IF YOU DON'T PUT ON GLOVES.
?
YURI-CHAN WARNED ME ABOUT THIS BE-FORE.
FROSTBITE CAN BE REALLY SERIOUS FOR CATS!
SHUDDER
Elizabethan
Collar-!!
THEY MIGHT NEED TO GIVE YOU AN OINTMENT AND PUT A CONE ON YOU.

HMPH!
SO I'M GLAD YOU WERE HAVING FUN!
I WAS AFRAID THAT THE SNOW MIGHT BRING BACK PAINFUL MEMORIES FOR YOU.
BUT THAT'S A RELIEF.
ALL RIGHT, WHAT SHOULD WE DO TODAY?
DAD IS COOPED UP IN THE STUDY, PROBABLY BUSY WITH WORK.
MOM IS STILL HUNG OVER FROM YESTERDAY AND WENT BACK TO SLEEP.
HM?
TAP
TAP
TAP
WHERE WERE THOSE OLD DVDS?
YOU FINISHED CLEANING UP THE ROOM YESTERDAY...
SO THERE REALLY ISN'T ANYTHING LEFT TO DO.
WHA...?

*It is customary in Japan to visit a temple or shrine during the first few days of the New Year.

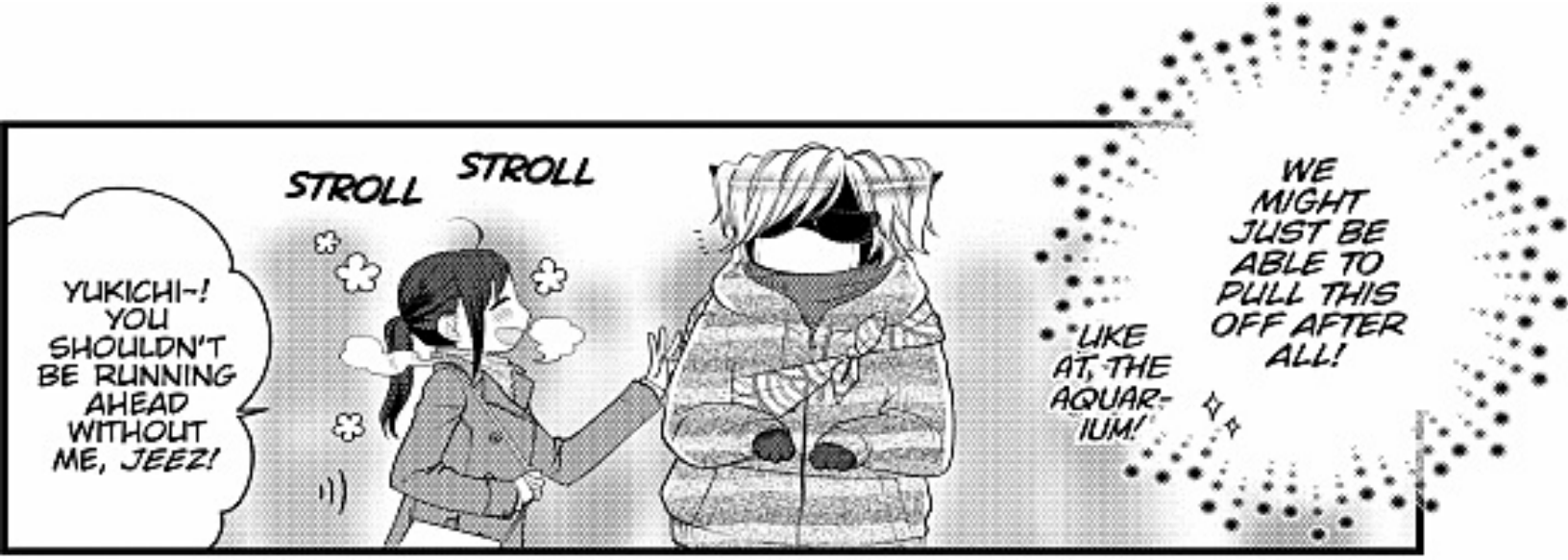
YOU KNOW HOW WHEN THEY CANCEL A TRAIN, THE STATION IS JAMMED WITH PEOPLE WAITING TO GET ON? THAT'S WHAT IT'LL BE LIKE AT THE SHRINE!
THAT SHRINE IS GONNA HAVE A CRAP TON OF VISITORS ON NEW YEAR'S DAY!
ARE YOU KIDDING ME?!
YOU WANT TO GO UP TO THE SHRINE ON THE MOUNTAIN?
HE MUST HAVE FOUND IT WHILE CLEANING THE ROOM!
AAACK! THAT WAS FROM THE CULTURE FESTIVAL BACK IN HIGH SCHOOL!
HEH!
WAIT, WHAT'S THAT WIG? IT LOOKS FAMILIAR...
IF I TAKE YOU TO A PLACE THAT CROWDED, WHO KNOWS WHAT KIND OF RUCKUS THAT'LL CAUSE!
YUKICHI IS SO HAPPY THOUGH!!
BOUNCE ウキ
BOUNCE ウキ
BOUNCE ウキ
UGH, I SHOULD HAVE THROWN IT OUT AGES AGO!!
POP
POP
はーーーーあ SIIIIGH...
I REALLY NEED TO DECLUTTER.

APPARENTLY THE LINE TO PRAY AT THE SHRINE IS THREE HOURS LONG.
STILL BETTER THAN COMING AT MIDNIGHT THOUGH, RIGHT?
GWAH HA HA!
HAPPY NEW YEAR!
CHATTER
ガヤ
CHATTER
ガヤ
AH HA HA!
WOULD YOU LIKE TO TRY SOME SWEET RICE WINE?
I WANT A GOOD-LUCK CHARM!
GOOD IDEA!
WHERE IS DADDY?

WAIT!
YUKI-KICHI?!
LOST!
SNEAK
SNEAK
SEE? THERE ARE A TON OF PEOPLE!
WE SHOULD JUST GO H--

OOPS! 'SCUSE ME!
WHA--?!
BUMP!
WE'RE OUT IN THE COUNTRY! HE LOOKS TOO SUSPICIOUS!
PEOPLE ARE GOING TO FREAK OUT!!

THEY THINK HE'S A FOREIGN TOURIST !!
MY BAD!
ERM!
I AM VERY SORRY, SIR!!


STROLL
STROLL
YUKICHI-! YOU SHOULDN'T BE RUNNING AHEAD WITHOUT ME, JEEZ!
WE MIGHT JUST BE ABLE TO PULL THIS OFF AFTER ALL!
LIKE AT THE AQUARIUM!

IS THAT YOU, SAKU-CHAN?!
WHOA!

OH! YOH-CHAN?!
AHHHHHH!
LONG TIME NO SEE!
SNEEEAK
YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD ME YOU WERE COMING BACK!
WHO'S THAT, MAMA?
NO WAY, NO WAY!! I HAVEN'T SEEN YOU SINCE GRADUA-TION!

I FORGOT THIS PLACE WAS FULL OF PEOPLE WHO KNOW ME!!
HUH? FUKU-ZAWA?
WOW! YOU'RE BACK IN TOWN?!
ALL OLD CLASSMATES.
HUH?
WASN'T THERE SOME-ONE WITH YOU?
O-OH, NO, JUST ME!!

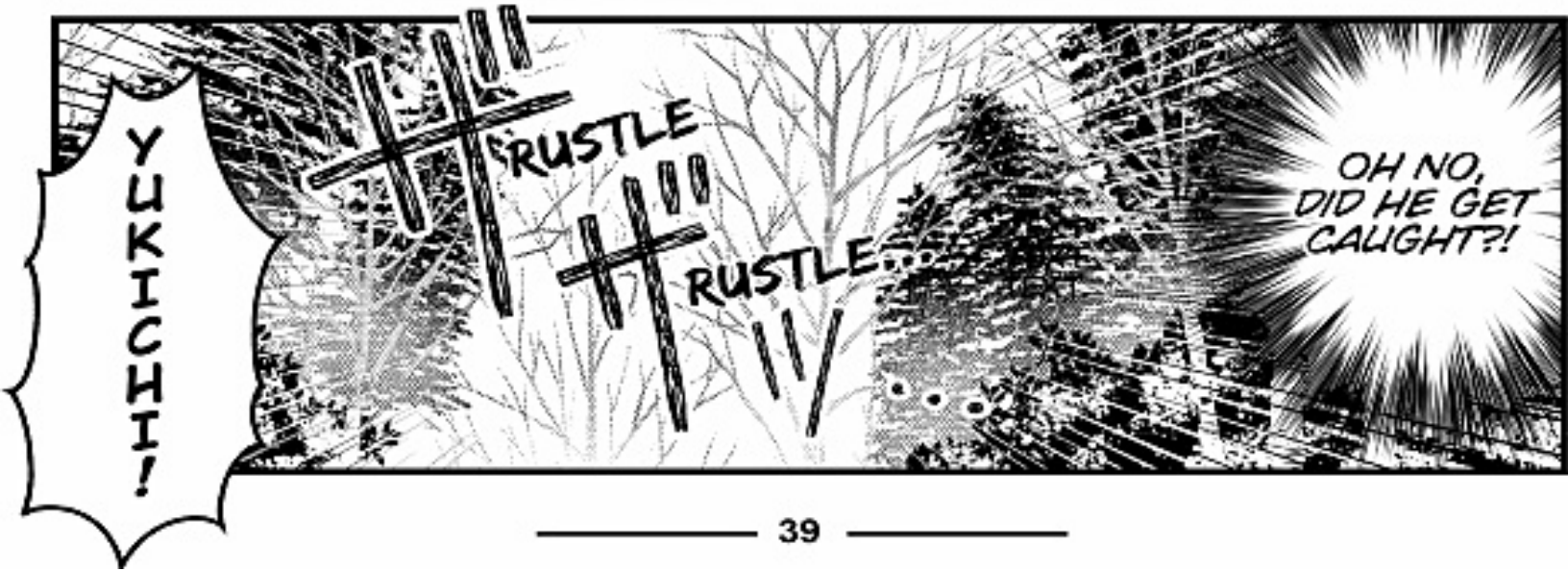
DID YOU HEAR? SAKU IS IN TOWN!
!
CHATTER
CHATTER
REALLY?! I WANNA SEE HER!
WHAT'S SHE UP TO THESE DAYS? IS SHE PLAYING SHOGI PROFES-SION-ALLY?
NO, I DON'T THINK SHE ENDED UP FOLLOWING IN HER PARENTS' FOOTSTEPS, RIGHT?
...
WELL, WHAT-EVER IT IS, I'M SURE SHE'S GREAT AT IT. SHE ALWAYS HAS BEEN.
YEAH, SHE WAS BASICALLY FAMOUS FOR BEING GOOD AT WHATEVER SHE TRIED. SHE'D WIN AWARDS RIGHT OFF THE BAT.
THAT WAS A DARK TIME IN MY PAST!
BWFFFT
I'M ASHAMED TO THINK ABOUT IT!
SHE WAS SO TALENTED AT EVERYTHING THAT SHE COULDN'T STICK TO ANY ONE THING!
I REALLY WONDER HOW SHE'S DOING NOW.
WHERE IS SHE?
?
SIIIIGH...

CHATTER
おい
CHATTER
おい
SO YOU'RE A CAREER WOMAN IN THE BIG CITY?! THAT'S AMAZING!
OH, IT'S NOT THAT INTERESTING. IT'S JUST BORING OL' OFFICE WORK.
COME ON, DON'T BE SO MODEST!
YOU WERE NEVER ONE TO BRAG, WERE YOU?
THOUGH I DIDN'T THINK YOU'D END UP WORKING IN AN OFFICE.
YEAH, SAME HERE!
I THOUGHT YOU'D END UP DOING SOMETHING THAT TOOK ADVANTAGE OF ALL THAT NATURAL TALENT.
"YOU CAN'T DO ANYTHING! YOU'RE NOT LIKE YOUR MOM AND DAD!"
"YOU'RE JUST A LAME, TALENTLESS LOSER!"
UM... SORRY, GUYS.
I'M IN A BIT OF A HURRY.
AWW!
TMP
I'LL TALK TO YOU LATER!

I THOUGHT I WAS OVER THIS!
BA-DMP
BA-DMP
BA-DMP
I'M NOT SOME KID ANYMORE! I'M A GROWN ADULT!
WAIT, WHY AM I RUN-NING?!

YUKICHI! WHERE ARE YOOOOU?
I THOUGHT HE WENT OFF IN THIS DIRECTION...
I REALLY, REALLY WISH I COULD GO HOME!

?!
PANIC
IT'S A CAT MON-STER!
A CAT MONSTER!


YUKICHI!
RUSTLE
RUSTLE...
OH NO, DID HE GET CAUGHT?!

?!
NO WAY, HE'S GOTTA BE A WERE-WOLF!
JUST LOOK AT THESE GINOR-MOUS CLAWS!
EEEK!
IT'S A KITTY CAAAAAT! ARE THESE EARS REAL?
MAKE 'EM FLAPPITY FLAP!
KYAA!
HUH? HOW DO YOU GUYS KNOW MY NAME?
OH! ARE YOU YOH-CHAN'S KIDS?
YOU MEAN SAKU! SA-KU!
HEY! IT'S SAU-CHAN!
OH GOD, PLEASE ERASE THAT FROM YOUR MEM-ORY!
I SAW SOME PICTURES OF YOU AT SOME KINDA FESTIVAL.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE A GUY THOUGH.
SAKU
CROSS-
DRESSING CAFÉ
UHH?
?
YOU'RE LIKE SUPER AWESOME, RIGHT?!
ONCE MOM STARTS TALKING ABOUT YOU, SHE CAN'T SHUT UP!
YEAH! WE KNOW SAU!
MOMMY TALKS ABOUT YOU AAALL THE TIME!

ANYWAY, MOM AND ALL HER FRIENDS SAY YOU'RE THE HARDEST WORKING PERSON THEY KNOW...
AND THAT THEY ALL LOOKED UP TO YOU.
THEY... THEY DID?
NO, THEY COULDN'T HAVE.
I RE-MEMBER THEY SAID...
CONGRATS ON SIXTH PLACE, SAKU-CHAN!
AMAZING AS ALWAYS! YOU'RE MY ROLE MODEL!
THANKS, GUYS...
HEE HEE...
NO.
BACK THEN, I FELT STIFLED BY EVERYONE'S ADMIRATION OF MY PARENTS AND MY OWN INFERIORITY COMPLEX.
I COULDN'T BREATHE.
I TOLD MYSELF THAT I HAD TO CARE ABOUT HOW PEOPLE SAW ME.
BUT...

TO THE WORDS THEY SAID?
WAS I EVEN REALLY LISTENING...
なでPAT
PAT
……
なでPAT
なでPAT...
WHA--?!
WHERE IS MOM, ANYWAY?
OH MY GOD! THERE YOU ARE!!
HEH!
HEH
HEH
HEH
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
SHAKE
YUKICHI!! I NEED YOU TO DIG A HOLE FOR ME TO CRAWL INTO! NOOOOOW!!

YOU DIDN'T DO ANYTHING WRONG! I'M THE ONE WHO'S SORRY!
D-DON'T APOLO-GIZE!
OH!
AND... SORRY ABOUT EARLIER. WE WERE BEING INSENSITIVE...
THANK YOU SO MUCH, SAKU!
UH...
SORRY, THAT WAS SUPER IMMATURE OF ME.
AND I JUST HAD THIS OVER-WHELMING URGE TO RUN AWAY.
UM...I THINK...I JUST GOT EMBAR-RASSED THINKING ABOUT MY PAST SELF...
OH, YOU!
AH HA HA!
PFFF!
AH HA HA HA!
OKAY! IT'S A PROMISE THEN!
DEFINITELY! I'LL LET YOU KNOW NEXT TIME I'M COMING HOME.
NEXT TIME YOU COME BACK WE SHOULD GRAB A DRINK TO-GETHER!

*A neko chigura is a type of woven cat bed.

SHAKE
SHAKE
YEAH, I THOUGHT SO TOO.
PLUS WE MIGHT RUN INTO MORE PEOPLE I KNOW.
WHAT SHOULD WE DO NOW? I HEARD THAT THE LINE TO GET INTO THE SHRINE IS THREE OR FOUR HOURS LONG...
OH!
BUT YUKICHI WANTED TO VISIT THE SHRINE PRETTY BAD...
?
YUKICHI!
I'VE GOT AN IDEA.
HEE
HEE
HEE
HEE!
?!
THE SECRET SPOT!
LET ME SHOW YOU THE ONE GOOD THING THAT CAME OUT OF ALL THE TIME I SPENT BROODING DURING MY CHILDHOOD YEARS!

OH GOOD, IT'S STILL HERE!
SOMETIMES THERE'S AN OFFERING AT THIS SHRINE...
BUT I'VE NEVER ACTUALLY SEEN ANY-BODY HERE BEFORE.
WHENEVER I DIDN'T WANT TO GO STRAIGHT HOME FROM SCHOOL...
OR WHEN I JUST WANTED TO BE ALONE, I'D COME HERE.
I'D SIT RIGHT ON THAT BENCH OVER THERE.
MAN, THIS PLACE HASN'T CHANGED A BIT!
.....
?!
FLINCH
FWIP

...!
H-HEY, WAIT, YUKICHI!
WHAT ARE YOU...?!
FWSH
SQUEAK...
I'M GLAD I BROUGHT YUKICHI.

I'M GLAD HE'S HERE WITH ME.
CLAP
CLAP
HERE'S TO ANOTHER YEAR TOGETHER.
.....
HEY, WHAT'S WITH THE SIGH?!
CAN SO END

The Masterful Cat is Depressed Again, Today

PURRRRRR

51 CAN 51
CAN COMPLETELY CHANGE HOW YOU SEE THE WORLD.
A TINY CHANGE IN PERSPECTIVE...
EVEN SOMETHING AS SMALL AS LOOKING UP FROM THE GROUND...
HEY, YUKICHI?
.....
YOU SURE YOU'RE READY TO LEAVE TOMORROW...?
HEH
HEH
HEH
HEH
くつろぎ COMFY

SNATCH
JEEZ!
STOP CHUCKLING TO YOURSELF WHILE FLIPPING THROUGH MY YEARBOOK!
JUST WATCH! ONE OF THESE DAYS I'LL PUT TOGETHER AN ALBUM OF YOUR PHOTOS AND LAUGH! SEE HOW YOU LIKE IT!
HMPH!
FWOO
.....
U-UM...? YUKICHI...
?
I'M GONNA ASK YOU AGAIN...
YOU'RE READY TO LEAVE TOMORROW... RIIIIGHT??
AHHHH!
IGNORE
.....
DON'T TELL ME YOU'RE ACTUALLY THINKING OF STAYING HERE? YOU WANNA MOVE HERE?!
I WON'T DO IT! I'LL JUST GO HOME BY MYSELF!
AND I'LL CRY!!

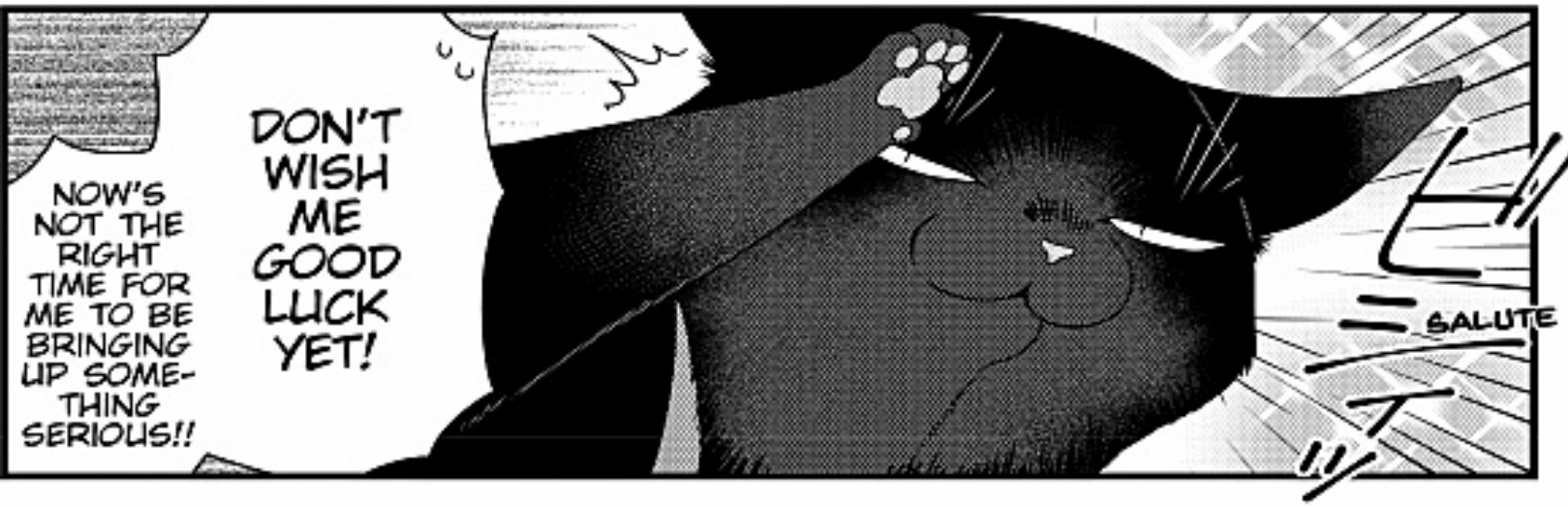
'CAUSE, YOU KNOW...
?
UGH...I MEAN...
I GUESS I'M ALSO THINKING LIKE, CAN I REALLY GO HOME LIKE THIS?
WANT MY PARENTS...
TO MEET YOU...
OR SOME-THING.
I KINDA...
SO IT'S TOTALLY OKAY IF YOU'D RATHER DO THIS NEXT TIME!
BECAUSE HONESTLY, I DON'T EVEN KNOW HOW I'D BRING IT UP AFTER ALL THIS TIME!
WAH!
OF COURSE, IF YOU'RE UNCOMFORT-ABLE WITH THAT WE DON'T HAVE TO!
I'M SO NERVOUS THAT I'M READY TO THROW UP!!
WHY DO YOU GET TO BE SO CALM?!
CHEW CHEW
CRUNCH
GO

I MEAN... LOGICALLY I KNOW THAT THEY WOULD HEAR ME OUT...
BUT I'VE NEVER HAD THESE KINDS OF SERIOUS CONVER-SATIONS WITH THEM BEFORE.
BA— THUMP
バックン
LIKE, AT ALL. EVER. NOT ONCE. SO I HAVE NO CLUE HOW IT'S SUPPOSED TO GO!
BA— THUMP
バックン
MY PARENTS WERE ALWAYS BUSY WORKING.
I DIDN'T WANT TO BOTHER THEM OR DISAPPOINT THEM, SO I ALWAYS TRIED TO ACT LIKE I HAD IT TOGETHER.
BECAUSE OF THAT, SOMEWHERE ALONG THE LINE, WE DEVELOPED THIS WEIRD DISTANCE BETWEEN US.
AND TECHNICALLY I'M THE ONE WHO PULLED AWAY FROM THEM...
BUT NOW I'M SCARED TO REACH OUT.
Commendation
Fukuzawa Saku
.....
GO
AGAIN, YOU'RE WAY TOO CALM ABOUT THIS!!

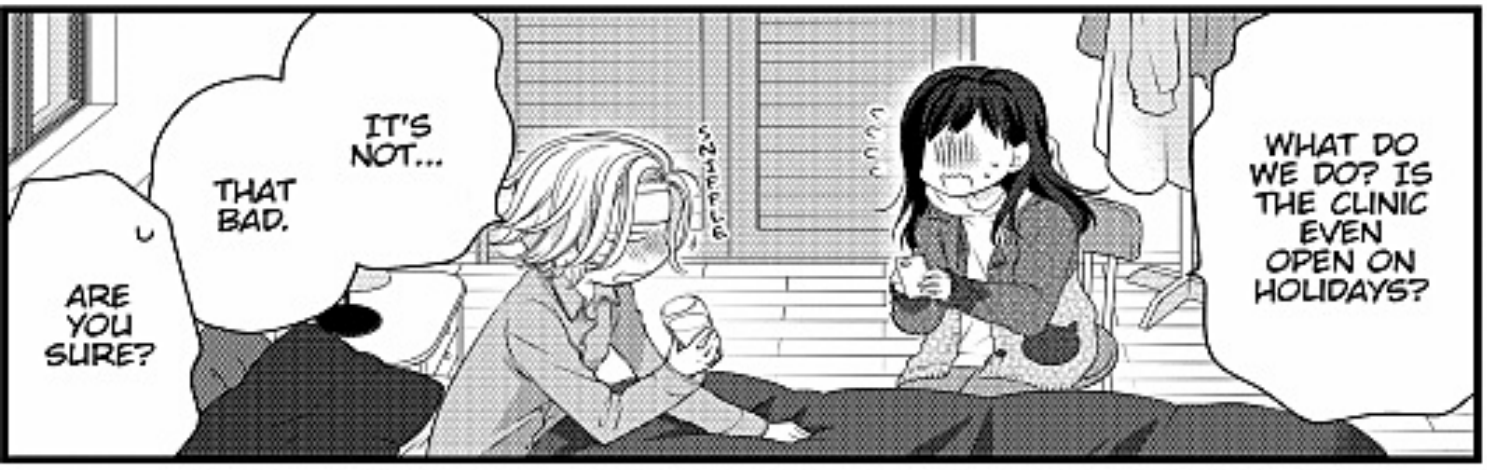
GAH!
VRZZ
VRZZ
JEEZ, WHO'S MES-SAGING ME...?
THAT SCARED THE CRAP OUT OF ME.. OH, IT'S JUST MY PHONE.

Mom
bring me watr
16:42
IT'S MOM.
SH-SHE WANTS WATER?!

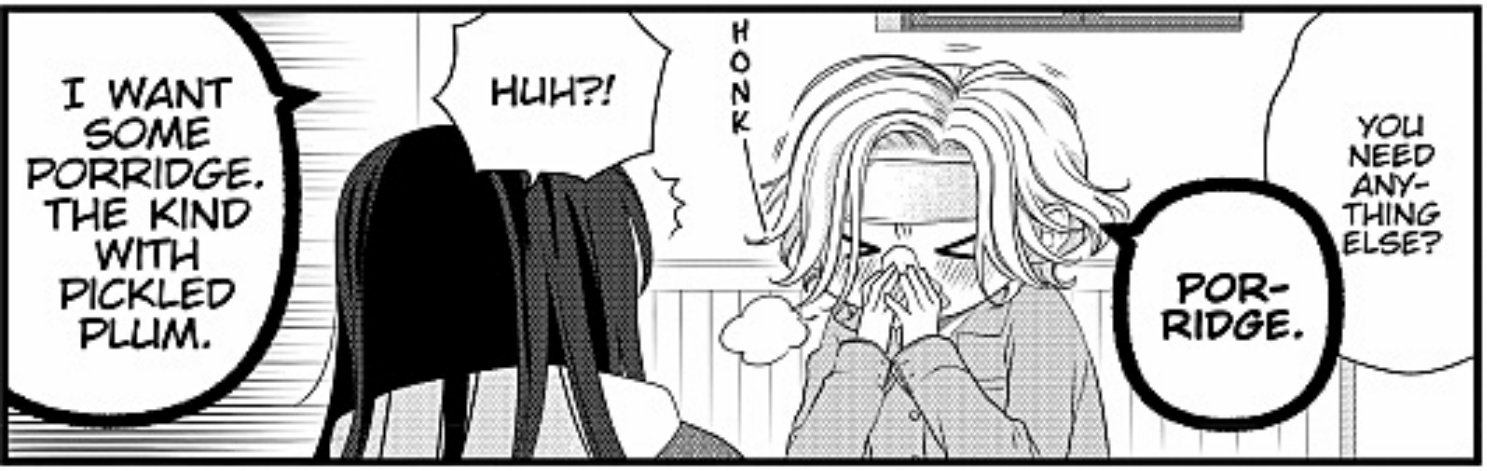
NOD
UGH, I THINK SHE MIGHT STILL BE HUNG OVER.
I'LL BE BACK IN A SEC.


SALUTE
DON'T WISH ME GOOD LUCK YET!
NOW'S NOT THE RIGHT TIME FOR ME TO BE BRINGING UP SOME-THING SERIOUS!!

SLUMP
I THOUGHT... THAT I WAS JUST HUNG OVER...
BUT I THINK I MIGHT ACTUALLY BE SICK.
OH, YIKES!

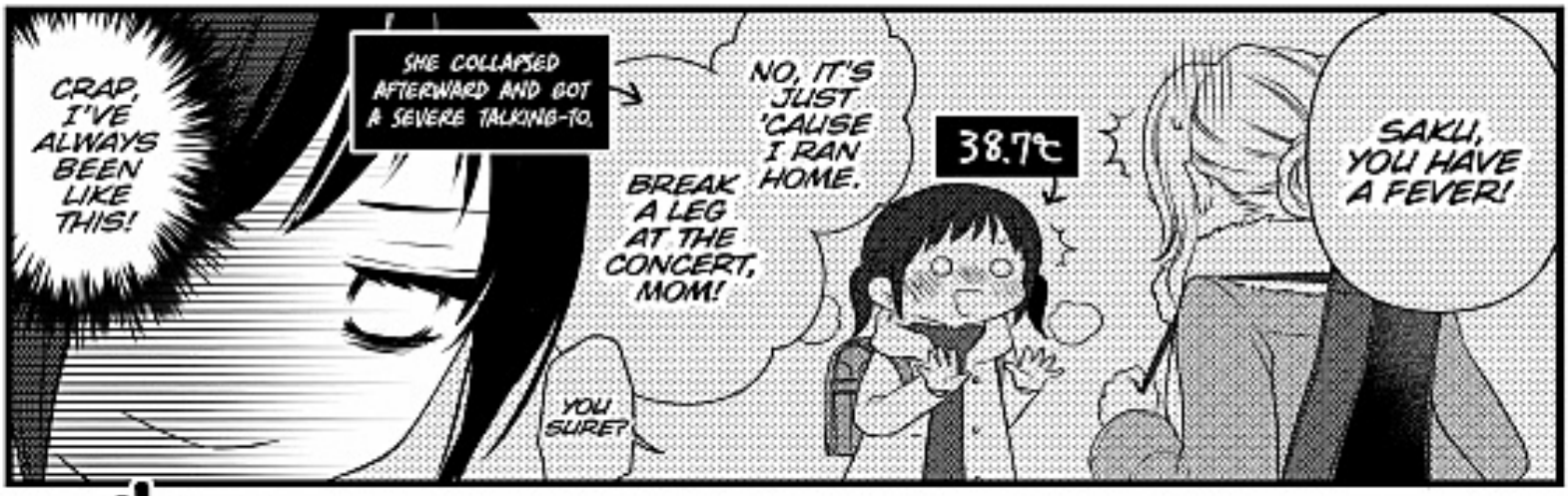

WHAT DO WE DO? IS THE CLINIC EVEN OPEN ON HOLIDAYS?
IT'S NOT... THAT BAD.
ARE YOU SURE?

WHAT DID DAD SAY?
I HAVEN'T TOLD HIM YET.
I DON'T WANT TO BOTHER HIM WHILE HE'S WORKING.
THANKS FOR THE WATER.
O-OH... OKAY...


YOU NEED ANY-THING ELSE?
POR-RIDGE.
HONK
HUH?!
I WANT SOME PORRIDGE. THE KIND WITH PICKLED PLUM.

I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE'S MAKING ME DO THIS!
SOME-THING AS SIMPLE AS POR-RIDGE SHOULD BE NO PROB-LEM!
~YOU COOK FOR YOUR-SELF, RIGHT?!

I'VE GROWN SO ACCUSTOMED TO LYING TO HER.
WHEN DID I GET LIKE THIS?
DOH!
WAIT, WASN'T THAT THE PERFECT CHANCE TO TELL HER ABOUT YUKICHI?


CRAP, I'VE ALWAYS BEEN LIKE THIS!
SHE COLLAPSED AFTERWARD AND GOT A SEVERE TALKING-TO.
NO, IT'S JUST 'CAUSE I RAN HOME.
BREAK A LEG AT THE CONCERT, MOM!
YOU SURE?
38.7℃
SAKU, YOU HAVE A FEVER!

SHOCK
AACK!
ANYWAY, FORGET THAT! I NEED TO LOOK UP HOW TO MAKE PORRIDGE ...
STAAAARE

STARE
STARE
DAD COULD COME OUT OF HIS STUDY AT ANY TIME...!
YOU SCARED ME!
YOU SHOULDN'T BE HERE! GO BACK UPSTAIRS!
EEP!
HEY!
FWIP
TAP
YUKICHI...
WILL YOU COOK WITH ME...?
MOM SAID SHE WANTED PORRIDGE.

HERE YOU GO.
ほわ〜
PUFF...
!
THIS IS DELI-CIOUS!
MUNCH
もぐもぐ
OH, THERE YOU ALL ARE.
NO ONE WAS IN THE LIVING ROOM, SO I WAS WONDERING WHAT HAD HAPPENED.
PEEK
ひょっこり
THANK GOOD-NESS!
PHEW...
I LOVE IT! IT MAKES ME FEEL ALL WARM INSIDE.
OH, DAD, MOM HAS A FEVER.
SAKU MADE ME PORRIDGE!
CHATTER
わいわい
CHATTER
わいわい
SAKU MADE IT?! ARE YOU SURE IT'S SAFE TO EAT?!
THAT'S WHAT YOU'RE WORRIED ABOUT?!

IT'S BETTER THAN THE PORRIDGE I MAKE!
RIGHT? I WAS SURPRISED TOO!
OH WOW! THIS REALLY DOES TASTE GREAT.
!
.....
BA— THUMP
BA— THUMP
CAN I HAVE MORE?
YOU HAVE TO TELL ME THE RECIPE LATER, SAKU!
I DIDN'T ACTUALLY MAKE THAT PORRIDGE!!
I'M SORRY!
WHAT?

TA-
DA
MOM, DAD, MEET YUKICHI.
SORRY, I BROUGHT HIM OVER WITHOUT TELLING YOU...
BOW
HE MADE THE PORRIDGE, NOT ME.
I DIDN'T DO ANY OF THE COOKING, AS YOU MIGHT EXPECT...
TH-TH...
APRON...!
APRON...!
APRON...!
THAT CAT'S WEARING AN APRON...!!

WAIT, MOM, YOUR FEVER...
RIIIP
MY FEVER'S GONE!!
YUKICHI?! YUKICHI THE CAT?!
YOU MEAN, YUKICHI, YOUR PET CAT?!
WAIT A MINUTE, WHY'S HE SO BIG...?!
AND HE WALKS ON TWO FEET?!
TOO MUCH TO PROCESS.
THE CAT BOWED JUST NOW!
AND YOU SAY HE COOKS ?!
AH!
BWSHA
I KNOW I SHOULD HAVE TOLD YOU GUYS ABOUT HIM EARLIER, BUT I'M COMING TO YOU NOW TO--
I DIDN'T MEAN TO SPOOK YOU, MOM!
BUT...
FWUMP
I CAN'T BELIEVE...!
HONEY, LET'S TRY AND STAY CALM HERE.
YOU'VE BEEN HIDING HIM FROM US ALL THIS TIME?!

カッ!!
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU'VE BEEN HIDING THIS CUTIE FROM US FOR SO LONG!!
AHHHH! I CAN'T TAKE IT ANYMORE!
LET ME TOUCH YOUR FURRR!!
ばっ!
GLOMP
KYAAAH! SO CUUUUUTE!
WAAAAHH!
キャアアかわいいわぁあああ」
SHOCK
HOW MUCH YOUR MOM LOVES CATS?
SAKU, DID YOU FORGET...
EEEEP.
HAAH! HAAH!
HOOO!
I'M ALL BETTER NOW THAT I'VE GOT CAT IN MY LUNGS.
THAT'S NOT HOW IMMUNE SYSTEMS WORK!
MOM... WHAT ABOUT YOUR FEVER?

HOW DID YOU DO IT?! HOW DID HE TURN OUT SO AMAZING?!
UM...WHEN I PICKED HIM UP OFF THE STREETS, I THOUGHT HE WAS JUST A REGULAR KITTEN.
BUT A LOT'S HAPPENED SINCE THEN.
LATER ON YOU MUST TELL ME EVERYTHING!
OKAY.

AND... I WANT TO HEAR ALL ABOUT YOU, TOO...
SAKU.
HUH?

WE FELT LIKE...
SOMETHING WAS BOTHERING YOU.
BUT WE THOUGHT THAT IT MIGHT HAVE BEEN OUR FAULT...
SO WE'VE BEEN AT A TOTAL LOSS ABOUT HOW TO BRING IT UP.

YOU SAID YOU SHOULD HAVE TOLD US EARLIER, BUT...
IF...
IF IT'S NOT TOO LATE, I THINK NOW IS A GOOD TIME.

I—
I DON'T THINK IT'S TOO LATE.
I'D ALSO LIKE IT IF WE TALKED TO EACH OTHER MORE.
!
PAT...
IF THAT'S OKAY...
SNIFF...
YOU SILLY GIRL.
OF COURSE IT'S OKAY!
I STILL CAN'T FIND THE COURAGE...
TO CLOSE THIS GAP BETWEEN US.

BUT JUST AS THE SNOW FALLS SLOWLY AND PILES UP ON THE GROUND...
I HOPE THAT ONE DAY, THE DIVIDE BETWEEN US WILL ALSO FILL ITSELF.
LET'S ALL HAVE DINNER TOGETHER TONIGHT.
WHAT DO YOU LIKE TO EAT, YUKICHI-CHAN? HM? OH, YOU WANT TO COOK TOGETHER! ♡
OH MY GOD, COOKING WITH A CAT! IT'S A DREAM COME TRUE!!
YOU'RE REALLY FEELING BETTER, HUH? JUST LIKE THAT?
NOT THAT, THAT'S A BAD THING.
BY THE WAY...
MY BAN ON DRINKING IS LIFTED NOW, RIGHT?
SINCE I CLEARLY WASN'T DREAMING OR HALLU-CINATING!!
OH, YOU'RE NOT GETTING OFF THAT EASY. YOU WERE DRUNK ENOUGH TO MISTAKE A CAT FOR A BEAR. THE BAN STAYS.
PLEASE, HAVE MERCY!

THE NEXT DAY.
HOW ABOUT WE ADOPT YOU?
MY GOSH!
YOU REALLY CAN DO ANY-THING~!
FAWN
でれ
HOLD ON!!
YUKICHI IS MINE!!
YUKICHI! YOU'RE COMING HOME WITH ME TOMORROW, GOT IT?!
I HAVE TO GO BACK TO WORK!
CLATTER
でれ FAWN
YUKICHI-CHAN~! REMATCH, PLEASE!
IN THE END, THEY WOUND UP STAYING WITH SAKU'S PARENTS FOR TWO MORE DAYS.

The Masterful Cat is Depressed Again, Today

THUMP
コッ…
THUMP
コッ…
THUMP
コッ…
THUMP
コッ…
ガチガチ
CLICK-CHAK
ガチャッ
KER-CHAK
HUFF! はぁー
HUFF! はぁー
HUFF! はぁー
ギィィィ…
CREEEAK…
バターン
THUD
AAAHHH
WE MADE IT!!
NEVER DRIVES.
HOUSE CAT.
DRIVING EIGHT HOURS IN POST-HOLIDAY TRAFFIC IS HELL ON EARTH!!
52 CAN 52

I CAN'T MOVE ANOTHER MUSCLE.
10:31 P.M.
THANK GOD WE MADE IT BACK BEFORE MIDNIGHT.
I ALWAYS HAD YUKICHI IN TIMES LIKE THESE TO--
OH YEAH...
I DON'T THINK I CAN MAKE THE TREK TO BED.
WAS OUR HALLWAY ALWAYS THIS LONG?
TWITCH
ピク
TWITCH
ピク
YUKICHI?
OH NO. ARE WE SCREWED ???

I'LL HAVE TO GO TO WORK.
TOMORROW...
OR RATHER, IN ROUGHLY TWELVE HOURS...
I'D ALWAYS BE FINE BECAUSE YUKICHI KNEW EXACTLY WHAT TO DO TO BRING ME BACK TO LIFE.
OR EVEN IF I WENT OUT FOR DRINKS AFTER WORK AND CAME HOME READY TO THROW UP...
EVEN IF I STAYED TOO LATE AT THE OFFICE, MISSED THE LAST TRAIN, AND HAD TO WALK TWO HOURS BACK HOME...
I ALWAYS CAME IN TO WORK READY TO GO, NO MATTER WHAT HAPPENED THE NIGHT BEFORE.
LOOK AT HIM!
BUT NOW...
TEMPERATURE BY THE DOOR
3°C
ACHOO!
SHIVER
NOT TO MENTION IT'S FREEZING!

SHAKE
ゆさ
YUKICHI.
YUKICHI!
WE SHOULD AT LEAST TRY TO MAKE IT TO THE KOTATSU.
IT'S TOO COLD BY THE DOOR...
SHAKE
ゆさ
SILENCE
しーん
.....
.....
URK!
HNGH!
ふぃ??
YUUUU!
KIIIII!
CHIIIIIII!
THUD
はたん
HE WON'T BUDGE.

AT THIS RATE WE'LL FREEZE TO DEATH IN EACH OTHER'S ARMS HERE, RIGHT HERE IN THE ENTRYWAY!!
FORGET ABOUT WORK TOMORROW!
THIS...
THIS IS AN UNPRECE-DENTED CRISIS!
I USED TO COME HOME AND COLLAPSE BY THE DOOR ALL THE TIME.
AND I WOULD SNUGGLE UP WITH LITTLE KITTEN YUKICHI UNDER A BLANKET...
BUT, MAN...
THIS KINDA REMINDS ME OF OLD TIMES.
AHH...
SO NICE AND...
NICE AND WARM, ISN'T?
WARM...
AW, YUKICHI.
THAT ONLY HAPPENS WHEN YOU'RE ABOUT TO DIE!!
FWISH
JOLT
WAIT!
MY LIFE IS LITERALLY FLASHING BEFORE MY EYES!!

I KNOW IT'S IN HERE SOME-WHERE...
IT'S FREEZING!
UGGGH.
HEY, YUKICHI!
LOOK, IT'S YOUR FAVORITE TREAT!
CHURU
AHA!
PHEW.
IF YOU DON'T WAKE UP...
GRRRR...
GRR...
CHURU
C'MON, WAKE UP.
!!
THEN I'LL EAT IT!!
SNATCH

SHIVER SHIVER
I KINDA WANTED TO SEE WHAT IT TASTES LIKE, THOUGH...
?!
I'M NOT STRONG ENOUGH TO CARRY YOU. I THOUGHT WE WERE GONNA DIE LIKE THIS.
OH, THANK GOD YOU'RE AWAKE!
SHWP
WUH?!
AHH ?!
ARE YOU OKAY ?!
.....
SLUMP
WRIGGLE
WRIGGLE
...
LET'S CRAWL!
DON'T PUSH IT! I DON'T EVEN WANT TO THINK ABOUT WHAT'LL HAPPEN IF YOU STRAIN YOURSELF TOO MUCH!

WE MADE IT HERE ALIVE!!
SIZZLE SIZZLE
ほかほか～
WE DID IT!
?
AHA!
ARGH...
A FATE WORSE THAN DEATH.
NOW THAT I'M NOT GONNA DIE...THAT MEANS...
I HAVE TO GO TO WORK IN TEN HOURS.
DIDN'T WE EMPTY THE FRIDGE BEFORE WE LEFT?!
HUH? YUKICHI? YOU'RE NOT MAKING DINNER, ARE YOU ?!
LATER
カチ～ン

...!!
DON'T TELL ME...
RUSTLE
HEH.
CLATTER
CLATTER
WOW, AND IT'S ALL BEEN PRE-CUT!
TRULY THE WORK OF AN EXPERT!!
THAT'S A TECHNIQUE ONLY SEASONED HOME COOKS CAN MASTER!
YOU FROZE INGREDIENTS AHEAD OF TIME?!
DASHI STOCK ?!
HM? IT SMELLS LIKE...NO WAY...
PLOP
PLOP
KRIK
KRAK
AND WHAT ARE THESE YELLOW ICE CUBES? THEY LOOK LIKE HONEY...
YOU CAN FREEZE IT?!
AWE-STRUCK.
?!
OH...
STEAM

IT'S...
IT'S...!
SEAWEED OZŌNI!!
EXACTLY WHAT I'VE BEEN DREAMING OF!!
FWOO
ほわ...
YUKI...
YOU...
YOU PREPARED THIS FOR ME?!
HEH
HEH
HEH!
THANK YOU SO MUCH, YUKICHI! I'LL GIVE IT MY BEST TOMORROW!
LET'S EAT!!
CHOMP
はぐっ
WHAM
OWW, IT'S HOT!! SO HOT!!

TA-DAAAA
RECORDED PROGRAMS
WHOA!!
YOU SET THE TV TO RECORD ALL OF THE UMYU-SEA NEW YEAR'S PERFOR-MANCES?!
HEH.
YOU EVEN GOT THE SHORTS THEY AIRED IN THE MIDDLE OF THE NIGHT!

CAN 52 END

The Masterful Cat is Depressed Again, Today

53 CAN 53
WHAT TIME IS IT?! I NEED TO DO MY MAKE--
JOLT
SHOOT! I FELL BACK ASLEEP!
YOU DID IT FOR ME?!
HEH.
WHOA!
EVEN MY HAIR'S DONE.
HUH? IT'S ALREADY DONE?
UP...?
THANK YOUUUU!!
HEH...
YOU DID A GOOD JOB, TOO.
I CAN'T BELIEVE YOU MANAGED TO PUT MAKEUP ON SOMEONE WHO'S SLEEPING.
.....
BLINK BLINK
I CAN SLEEP FOR FIFTEEN MORE MINUTES EVERY DAY...?
SO, DOES THAT MEAN THAT IF YOU DO MY MAKEUP...

※ THE NEXT DAY.
MURMUR...
SPARKLE
HE GOT ME...
SPARKLE
SAKU-SENPAI?! ARE YOU GOING TO A PARTY LATER OR SOME-THING?!
YOU LOOK CUTE!!
WHA--?!
O-OF COURSE NOT! DO I LOOK LIKE THE KIND OF PERSON WHO GOES TO PARTIES?!
UMM!
IT'S... NOT LIKE THAT.
NOT AT ALL!
UH!
I NEED TO MAKE SURE I STAY AWAKE STARTING TOMORROW.
AHEM.
MURMUR...
MURMUR...
FOR A LITTLE BIT, RUMORS FLEW AROUND SAYING SHE WOULD GET MARRIED SOON AND LEAVE THE COMPANY.
IS IT A DATE?
IT'S A DATE, ISN'T IT?!
MUST BE NICE...
IT'S NOTHING! REALLY!
SOME-THING'S UP!
THEN WHY ARE YOU ALL DOLLED UP TODAY?

DOES HALF OF HER FACE AT A TIME.
(WHILE STRAINING HIS BACK)

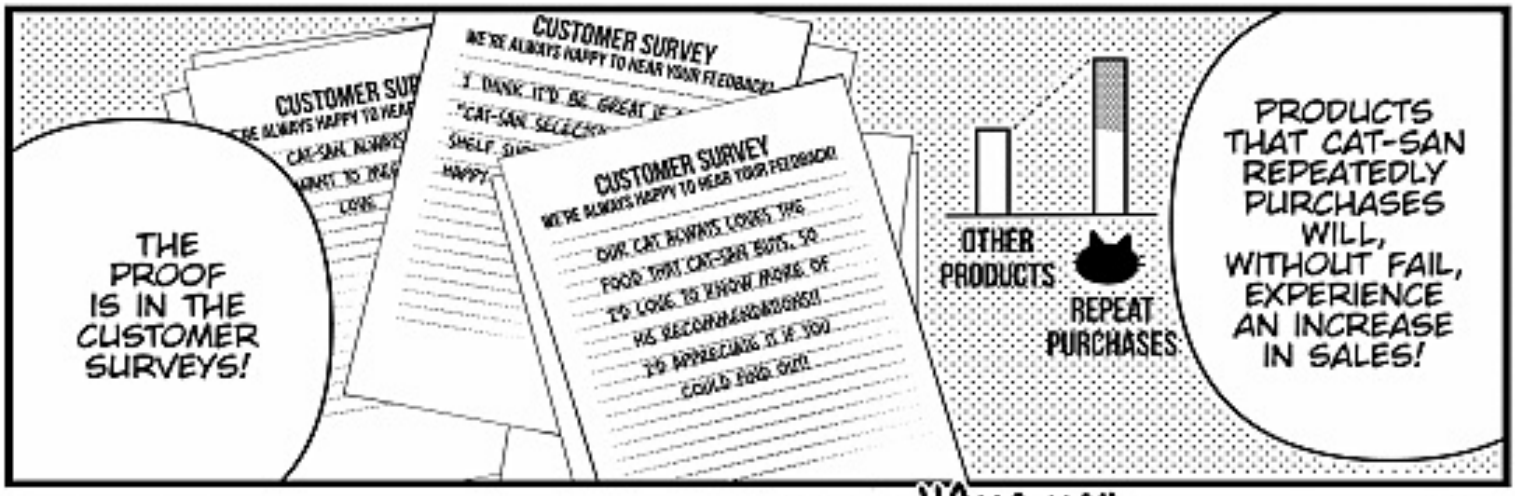
CAN 53 END

The Masterful Cat is Depressed Again, Today

SHIFTS (X/X - X/X)
UH... I MEAN...
HAPPY NEW YEAR...?
RUSTLE
WHOA!
カチャ
KA-CHAK
カタ
CLATTER
HEY! DON'T GIVE HIM THE WRONG IMPRES-SION!
?
WHY'D HE BRING YOU BACK HERE? WHAT IS HE DOING TO YOU?
CAT
PREMIUM SILVERVINE
PATE FLAVOR
BLACK CAT FOOD
DON'T LOOK AT ME LIKE I'M A PIECE OF HUMAN GARBAGE.
SRSLY?
ARE YOU... TRYING TO WIN HIM OVER WITH BRIBERY...?

I'M HAVING HIM TEST OUT VARIOUS CAT FOOD PRODUCTS TO SEE WHICH ONES WE SHOULD STOCK.
OKAY... BUT WHAT'S THE REAL REASON?
WHAT'S SO HARD TO BELIEVE ABOUT THAT?!

バチ CRACKLE
バチ CRACKLE
WELL, OF COURSE I WOULD LOVE NOTHING MORE THAN TO HAVE TEA WITH CAT-SAN!
BUT I DIDN'T MAKE ANYTHING UP!
ARE YOU SURE YOU DIDN'T JUST MAKE UP SOME EXCUSE...
SO THAT YOU COULD SIT AND HAVE TEA WITH CAT-SAN?
CRACKLE バチ
CRACKLE バチ


CUSTOMER SURVEY
CUSTOMER SURVEY
WE'RE ALWAYS HAPPY TO HEAR YOUR FEEDBACK!
OUR CAT ALWAYS LOVES THE FOOD THAT CAT-SAN BUYS, SO I'D LOVE TO KNOW MORE OF HIS RECOMMENDATIONS! I'D APPRECIATE IT IF YOU COULD FIND OUT!
OTHER PRODUCTS
REPEAT PURCHASES
THE PROOF IS IN THE CUSTOMER SURVEYS!
PRODUCTS THAT CAT-SAN REPEATEDLY PURCHASES WILL, WITHOUT FAIL, EXPERIENCE AN INCREASE IN SALES!

どっやあああ HA-HA-HA!!
SO!!
I AM MERELY FULFILLING MY DUTIES AS THE MANAGER OF THIS STORE!
TCH.
YOU MUST BE SOOO PROUD OF YOURSELF.
COULD YOU PLEASE STOP SAYING EVERY SINGLE THING THAT POPS INTO YOUR HEAD?!

OUR NEXT COURSE IS FELINE FAVES, STARRING WHITEBAIT...
AND BLACK CAT FOOD'S EXTREME REAL TUNA FLAVOR.
SHWP
COME NOW, CAT-SAN. FORGET ABOUT HER.
LET'S CONTINUE ON WITH OUR TASTE TEST.
...!
MMM!
CHOMP
FELINE FAVES
...!
MMM!
CHOMP
BLACK CAT FOOD'S EX-TREME
THE BOSS HAS FINALLY LOST IT...
WOO!!
YOU'RE JUST TOO CUTE NO MATTER WHAT YOU EAT! LET'S STOCK ALL OF THEM!! NISHINA! BRING ME THE ORDER FORMS!!
ADORABLE! THEY ALL PASS THE TEST! EVERY ONE OF THEM!!

CAN 54 END

The Masterful Cat is Depressed Again, Today

HM?
TUNA-STUFFED PEPPERS TOPPED WITH CHEESE
SAKU-SENPAI?
IS THERE ANY FOOD YOU DON'T LIKE?

IT MADE ME MISS HOW YOU ALWAYS SEEMED TO ENJOY WHATEVER YOU ATE, SO I ENDED UP LEAVING THE DATE EARLY.
MM
WOW, REALLY?!
I WENT OUT WITH THIS GUY I THOUGHT WAS PRETTY CUTE, AND IT TURNED OUT HE WAS AN INCREDIBLY PICKY EATER.

MMFNO, ISH NOT THAT...
CHEW
もぐ
CHEW
もぐ
CHEW
もぐ
YOUR PARENTS MUST HAVE TAUGHT YOU WELL
I BET FUKUZAWA WAS ONE OF THOSE GOOD KIDS WHO ALWAYS CLEANED HER PLATE!

WOW, YOUR HOMETOWN SOUNDS AWFUL.
YOU CAN GO HOME AFTER YOU FINISH YOUR FOOD!!
AND DON'T HOLD YOUR CHOPSTICKS IN YOUR LEFT HAND!
GULP
IT'S JUST THAT...BACK IN MY HOMETOWN THEY WOULDN'T LET YOU LEAVE SCHOOL UNTIL YOU FINISHED ALL YOUR FOOD.

I THOUGHT YOU JUST LIKED EATING!
WAIT, YOU'RE LEFT-HANDED ?!
I CAN USE CHOP-STICKS WITH EITHER HAND NOW.
I'M A LOT BETTER NOW...
BUT I WAS A PRETTY PICKY EATER FOR A LONG TIME, EVEN AFTER BECOMING AN ADULT.
I NEVER WOULD HAVE GUESSED!
OH, WAIT!
I REMEMBER! YOU USED TO INHALE THOSE ENERGY JELLY DRINKS FOR LUNCH EVERY DAY INSTEAD OF EATING ACTUAL FOOD!
JAB
AUUGH!!
BACK THEN I DIDN'T HAVE THE TIME OR ENERGY TO EVEN THINK ABOUT WHAT I SHOULD OR SHOULDN'T EAT!
ANYWAY, IF IT WAS THAT BAD, HOW DID YOU END UP BECOMING LESS PICKY?
HOW...?
HUNH. I DON'T ACTUALLY KNOW.
GIRL, WHAT DO YOU RE-MEMBER ?!

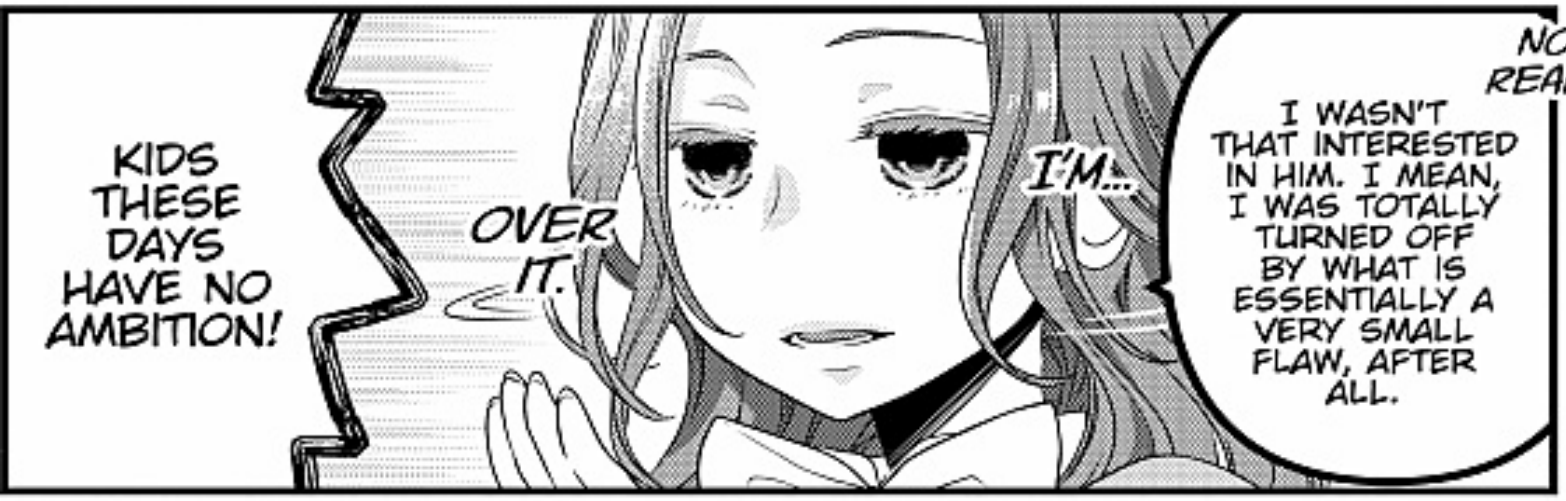
U-UHH... UM...?
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING IN THERE! SOME SECRET METHOD TO OVERCOMING PICKY EATING!
C'MON! DIG DEEP INTO THAT BRAIN OF YOURS!
OH...
Um... Are there... peas... in this ...?
ピカー
SHINE
Oh my god! You made dinner today, too?! And omelet rice, of all things?!
Cats these days are amazing!
Never mind! I'll eat it!
I'LL EAT EVERY LAST BITE!!
OKAY...SO BASICALLY YOU'RE SAYING THAT YOUR CAT HELPED THE FOOD GO DOWN MORE EASILY? HUNH, INTERESTING...
STARE
WERE PEAS ALWAYS THIS TASTY?!
IT'S GOOD! WAIT...I CAN ACTUALLY KEEP IT DOWN!
MY CAT WOULD WATCH ME WHILE I ATE, AND HE JUST LOOKED SO CUTE...

MAYBE MAKING YOUR OWN LUNCH HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH IT.
SLURP
YOU THINK SO?
Y'KNOW, SOME PEOPLE SAY THAT WHEN THEY COOK THEIR OWN FOOD IT TASTES BETTER TO THEM.
LIKE THEY CAN TASTE THE EFFORT PUT INTO IT, AND THAT MAKES IT MORE APPEALING.
HMM...
OH NO. THERE'S GREEN PEPPER, PORK, AND CARROTS IN THIS.
BUT MORE IMPORTANTLY, HOW DID A CAT MAKE THIS?!
THIS WAS STIR-FRIED, RIGHT? WHICH MEANS HE CAN USE KNIVES AND THE STOVE, TOO?!
HE'S SO SMALL THOUGH...
HE MUST HAVE WOKEN UP REALLY EARLY...
FWOOO
HE CAN'T EVEN EAT THIS, AND YET HE GOES THROUGH ALL THIS TROUBLE...
SO I HAVE TO EAT THIS!! I'M GONNA EAT IT, AND I'M GONNA LIKE IT!!
YEAH, WHEN I THINK ABOUT ALL THE EFFORT THAT WENT INTO IT, I DO FEEL WARM AND FUZZY INSIDE.
AND I ALWAYS LOOK FORWARD TO GETTING HOME AND SHOWING MY CAT THE EMPTY LUNCHBOX.
THANK YOUUU!!
TODAY'S LUNCH WAS AMAZING!
YOU SOUND LIKE SOME KID LOOKING FOR APPROVAL FROM YOUR MOM.
EXCEPT IT'S FROM YOUR CAT.

I WASN'T TRYING TO BECOME LESS PICKY, IT JUST HAPPENED! I DIDN'T HAVE A METHOD OR ANY-THING!
WELL, MAKE ONE!
IS THIS AN IMPRESSION OR SOME-THING?
C'MON, KID! YOU GOTTA HAVE SOME-THIN' BETTER THAN THAT! SOMETHING EASIER TO COPY?
HELP ME OUT HERE!

THAT'S A LITTLE DRA-MATIC!
WE'RE AT A CRITICAL JUNCTURE HERE!!
AND THEN TEACH IT TO THAT GUY YURI-CHAN WENT OUT WITH! THIS COULD BE HER ONE CHANCE AT TRUE LOVE AND IT'S SLIPPING THROUGH HER FINGERS!

UMM...?
え〜?
YOUR FRIEND'S HAPPINESS IS AT STAKE HERE, AND YOU JUST DON'T CARE AT ALL!
ISN'T THAT JUST CRUEL, YURI-CHAN?!


KIDS THESE DAYS HAVE NO AMBITION!
OVER IT.
I'M...
NOT REALLY.
I WASN'T THAT INTERESTED IN HIM. I MEAN, I WAS TOTALLY TURNED OFF BY WHAT IS ESSENTIALLY A VERY SMALL FLAW, AFTER ALL.

I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW EVERYONE ELSE HAS THE ENERGY TO DATE OR GO TO SINGLES PARTIES AFTER WORK.
CLACK
CLACK
CLACK
UGH, I'M BEAT.
I DON'T CARE HOW CUTE YU— KICHI-CHAN IS. WHEN AM I GETTING SOME CHILDREN?! NEED TO
ACK!
SAKU!
NOT THAT MY LOVE LIFE IS ANYONE ELSE'S BUSI-NESS.
ALTHOUGH, PREDICTABLY, MOM DID GIVE ME AN EARFUL ABOUT GETTING MARRIED.
SNIFF
!
MARRIAGE
結婚
将来
FUTURE
TO BE HONEST, I CAN'T EVEN IMAGINE WHAT MARRIAGE WOULD LOOK LIKE FOR ME.
SCORE!!
MARRIAGE FUTURE
POOF
SHE'S LEARNED WELL.
WAIT, I KNOW THAT DELICIOUS AROMA! IT'S YUKICHI'S SPECIAL HAMBURGER STEAKS WITH MISO SAUCE!!
DASH

YUKICHI'S SPECIAL HAMBURGER STEAKS WITH MISO SAUCE
WITH SHISO LEAVES
WITH SEAWEED.
IT'S MIXED WITH TOFU TO MAKE IT HEALTHIER AND GIVE IT A FLUFFIER TEXTURE!
んま SO GOOOOOD!
KO PO PO...

CAN 55 END

The Masterful Cat is Depressed Again, Today

HM?
VRRR
VRRR
VRRR
TAKA
TAKA
TAKA
TAKA
TAKA
TAKA

HA!
I'LL TEXT HIM BACK LATER.
SWIPE
SWIPE
We'll probably be there in two hours
Maybe less
Got it
Here's the photo
We framed it
SWIPE
SWIPE
DAD TEXTED ME?

PEEF!!
SHOOK
THEY TOOK A FAMILY PHOTO BEFORE THEY LEFT.

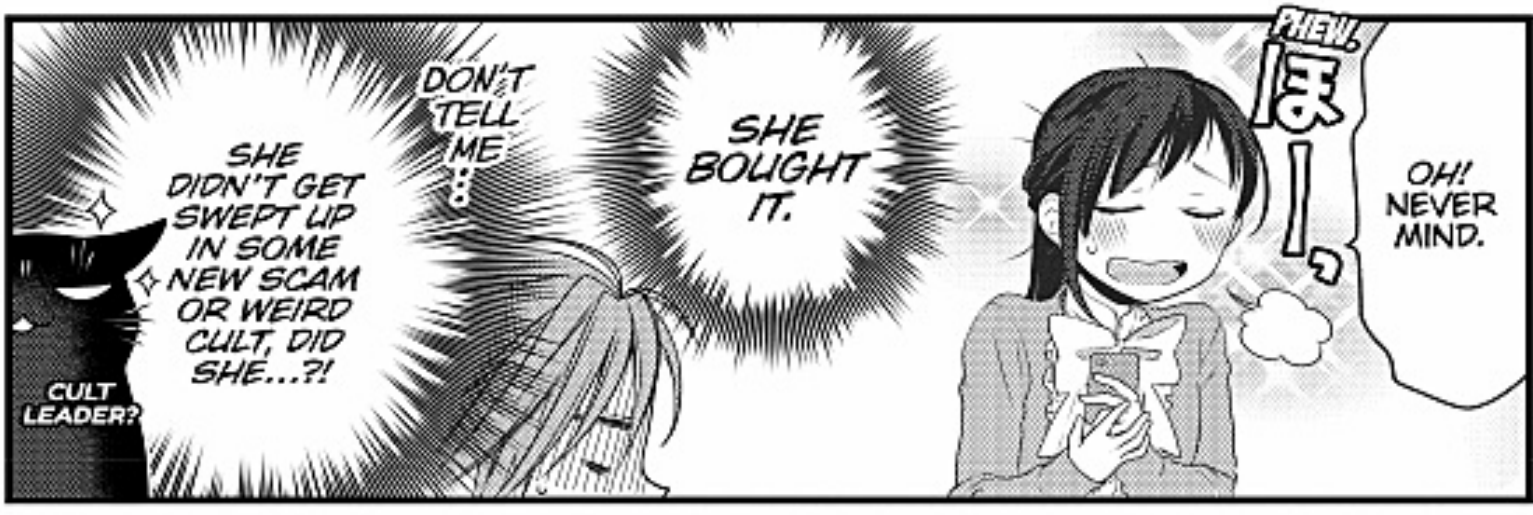
AHH!
YES!
FWIP
CLATTER
FUKUZAWA-SAN, DO YOU HAVE A MOMENT?
?!

.....
TAKA
TAKA
TAKA
TAKA
TAKA
TAKA
TAKA
TAKA
TAKA
TAKA
BEFORE THE NEXT DEPARTMENT MEETING...
OKAY, GOT IT. IN THAT CASE...
AND THEN...
OKAY.
YOU'LL NEED TO RUN THIS THROUGH GENERAL AFFAIRS.
.....
TAKA
TAKA
TAKA
TAKA
TAKA
TAKA
TAKA
TAKA
TAKA
TAKA
TAKA
TAKA
TAKA
I'LL SEND OUT AN INTERNAL E-MAIL.
THANK YOU.
SCREEN IS STILL ON.
AFTER YOU GET THE GENERAL MANAGER'S APPROVAL...
AND THERE'S THAT PERSON AGAIN, IN THE RIDICULOUSLY REALISTIC CAT COSTUME.
FUKUZAWA'S FREAKING OUT CAUGHT ME OFF-GUARD, AND I LOOKED FOR JUST A SPLIT SECOND...

GYAH!!
THAT LOOKED LIKE A FAMILY PHOTO.
DOES THAT MEAN HE'S A RELATIVE?

DID...
DID YOU... SEE IT...?!
CREEE
EEAK...

HE'S JUST MASHING THE KEYS AT THIS POINT.
TAKA
SEE WHAT?


SHE DIDN'T GET SWEPT UP IN SOME NEW SCAM OR WEIRD CULT, DID SHE...?!
DON'T TELL ME!!
SHE BOUGHT IT.
PHEW.
OH! NEVER MIND.
CULT LEADER?

WAIT, WHERE DID YOU GET THAT...?
THEY SENT US A COPY?!
UH?!
AND YOU FRAMED IT?
NOD NOD
NOD NOD
HE LOOKS SO PLEASED.
CAN 56 END

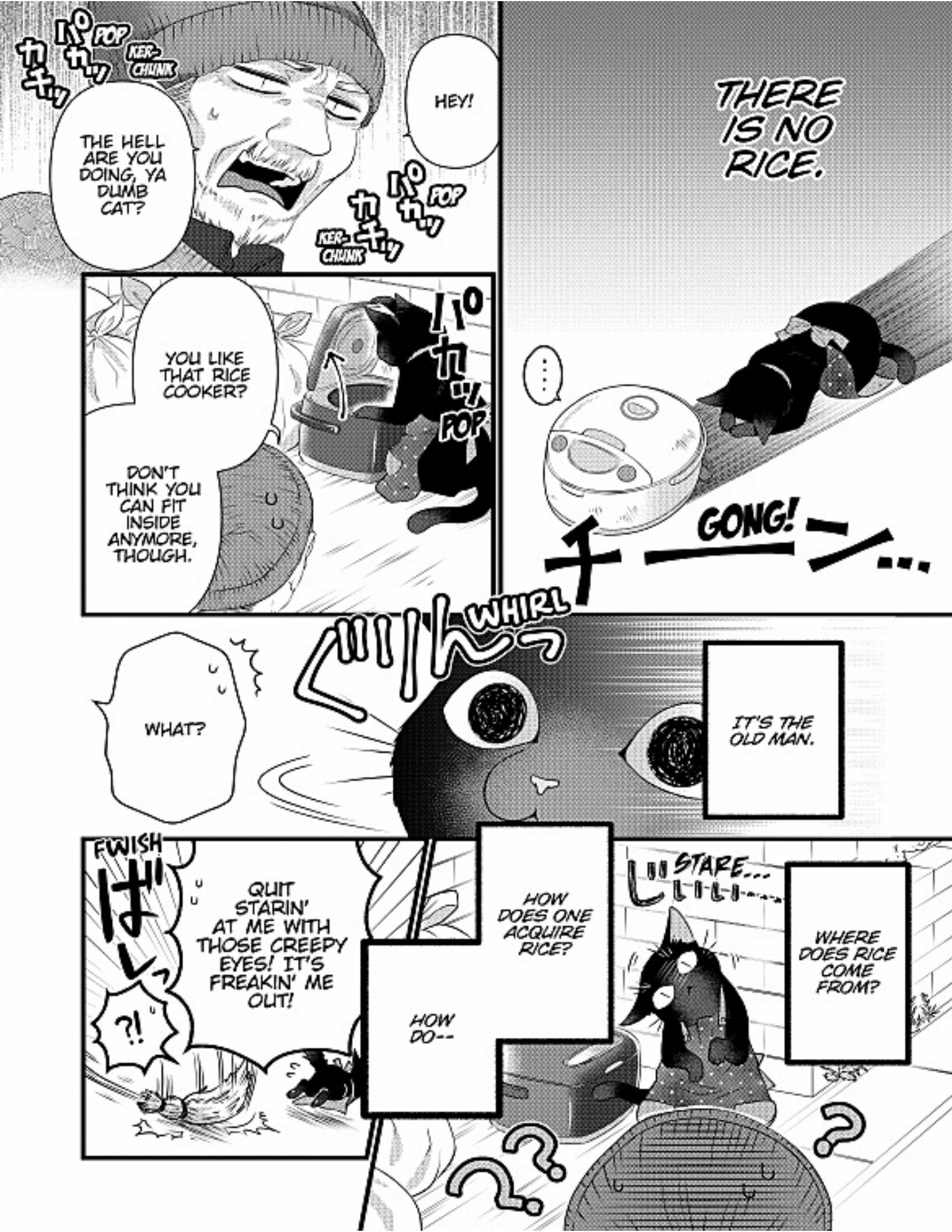
TO BE CONTINUED IN VOLUME 6!!

The Masterful Cat is Depressed Again, Today

BONUS THE MASTERFUL CAT'S AGONY
ARE TRULY TROUBLESOME CREATURES.
STARE...
HUMANS...
...
I'VE BEEN STUDYING HUMANS DAY AND NIGHT...
VIA THIS NOISY SCREEN THEY CALL THE "TV."
AND I'VE FINALLY COME TO A CONCLUSION.
THIS HUMAN...
URGH...
URGHH...
※ WEARING THE APRON HE RECEIVED FROM THE LANDLORD (SEE CAN 47).
IS SEVERELY MALNOURISHED!!
※ DUG OUT THIS FUTON AND PUT IT OUT BY THE DOOR (YUKICHI DID, THAT IS).

WHEREAS I FIND MYSELF NODDING OFF IF I SLEEP FOR FEWER THAN FIFTEEN HOURS!
APPARENTLY, THEY NEED SEVEN HOURS OF SLEEP. THAT'S TWICE AS MUCH SLEEP AS SHE'S GETTING NOW.
I ALREADY KNEW THAT HUMANS SLEPT FOR A RATHER SHORT AMOUNT OF TIME.
AND NOT TO MENTION SLEEP-DEPRIVED!
SLEEP DEBT !!
ACCUMULATED FATIGUE!!
GIVE IT A GO BUCCHIN!
THAT IF NOTHING IS DONE...
EVEN A CAT CAN TELL...
BEFORE LONG...
THIS HUMAN WILL SURELY PERISH.
UGHH...

AND THEREFORE...
RUSTLE
THUD
I REFUSE TO ACCEPT THIS FATE!
AND IF THAT HAPPENS, I WILL AGAIN BECOME A STRAY.
UNABLE TO FEAST ON BRAND NAME CAT FOOD.
ひゅる
HYUU...
LET'S COOK SOME RICE~!
OKAY!
BUT IT DOES LOOK SIMILAR TO THOSE I'VE SEEN IN COMMERCIALS, SO IT SHOULD BE THE COR-RECT TOOL.
THIS DOESN'T LOOK MUCH LIKE THE ONE THOSE GIRLS USED...
VIOLENTLY PINK
I HAVE DECIDED TO COOK RICE.
トーン
THUNK
ARCHAE-OLOGICAL FIND
I'VE EXCAVATED THIS RICE COOKER...
AND LEARNED THE PROCEDURE FOR COOKING RICE.
NEXT, I WILL-- AH, RIGHT.


POP
KER-CHUNK
THE HELL ARE YOU DOING, YA DUMB CAT?
HEY!
POP
KER-CHUNK
THERE IS NO RICE.
YOU LIKE THAT RICE COOKER?
DON'T THINK YOU CAN FIT INSIDE ANYMORE, THOUGH.
POP
GONG!
WHIRL
WHAT?
IT'S THE OLD MAN.
FWISH
QUIT STARIN' AT ME WITH THOSE CREEPY EYES! IT'S FREAKIN' ME OUT!
HOW DOES ONE ACQUIRE RICE?
HOW DO--
STARE...
WHERE DOES RICE COME FROM?

I WAS GOING HOME ANYWAY, YOU MISERABLE GEEZER.
HEY, IDIOT. HURRY ON HOME BEFORE YA FREEZE TO DEATH.
DON'T MAKE ME CLEAN UP YOUR FROZEN BODY.
SWISH
FLOAT...
!
AAGH!
DANGIT, JUST AS THE WEATHER STARTS GETTING COLD, IT SNOWS!
TCH!
I DETEST THE SNOW.
IT'S COLD.
AND THE COLD KILLS.
WHUMP
URK!

THUD...
THAT DAY, THAT MISERABLE, OLD LAND-LORD...
WEE-OOO
WEE-OOO
EVERY LIVING THING WILL INEVITABLY DIE.
THERE IS NO USE DENYING IT OR COMPLAINING ABOUT THAT FACT.
FELL ILL WITH SOMETHING CALLED A "SLIPPED DISK" AND WAS CARRIED OFF SOME-WHERE.
I THOUGHT I MIGHT NEVER SEE HIM AGAIN.
OOOOO!

THAT REMINDS ME...
I WONDER IF THAT USELESS HUMAN WILL MAKE IT HOME TONIGHT.
TO THINK OF HER FRAIL BODY IN THIS SNOW...
STOP FALLING.
STOP IT, SNOW.
PLEASE, STOP...
AHH!
CRASH
ガターン
KER-CHAK
ガチャ

OH.
I'M HOME, YUKICHI!
DID I WAKE YOU?
TIP TIP TIP
!!
SHE LOOKS DEATHLY PALE.
SORRY ABOUT THE NOISE.
I JUST GOT A LITTLE DIZZY, AND...
HAAH.
YOUR BODY IS FREEZING. OF COURSE YOU FEEL TIRED.
EVEN UNDER NORMAL CIRCUM-STANCES, YOU'RE STILL MALNOUR-ISHED.
HAAH.
MM... WHY DO I...FEEL...
SO... TIRED...?

AAH!
わ
?!
OH NO!
I'M SO SORRY, YUKICHI!!
YOUR FOOD BOWL IS EMPTY!
I'LL REFILL IT NOW!
HAVE YOU BEEN EATING MORE LATELY?!
SHWP
WHY...
SCRATCH
KOFF! KOFF!
PSHH...
WHY ARE YOU LIKE THIS? THIS ISN'T THE TIME FOR THAT!
A CREATURE WHO CANNOT TAKE CARE OF ITSELF WILL INEVITABLY--
YOU SHOULD BE WORRYING ABOUT YOURSELF!
.....

CREAK
KER-CHAK
KER-CHAK
?!
YUKICHI ?!
CREEEAK
IT'S DECIDED.
BUT RIGHT NOW...
HUFF!
HUFF!
I WILL DO WHAT SHE CANNOT.
ONE DAY, I WILL SHOW HER THAT I CAN COOK RICE.

OWSON MART
THERE IS ONLY ONE THING I CAN DO.
RICE BALL SALE
¥100
WHOA!
WHAT WAS THAT?!
CLATTER
THUD
WAS THAT A CAT?!
ZING ZING
ZING
ZING
ZING
A-ARE YOU ALL RIGHT, MISS?! WE'RE SO SORRY FOR THIS...!!
?!
ZING
WHERE ARE THEY?!
WHERE ARE THE RICE BALLS?!
!
BAM

I DON'T THINK SO. HE SEEMS WELL-GROOMED.
IS HE A STRAY?
STILL, SHOULD WE TAKE HIM TO THE SHELTER?
TUNA
...
YOU GOT HIM!!
GRAB
がばっ
ACK! STOP STRUGG-LING!
LET'S CALL THE MANAGER AND SEE WHAT HE SAYS.
SORRY FOR MAKING YOU WAIT, NISHINA.
SOUNDED LIKE THERE WAS A COMMOTION IN THERE.
A BLACK CAT BUSTED INTO THE STORE.
A CAT?! THAT'S WILD, HA HA!
DID YOU SAY A BLACK CAT?!
WHERE?! WHERE WAS HE?!
?!
U-UH, INSIDE THE CONVENIENCE STORE...
WHOOSH
THANK YOU!!

FORGIVE US
土下座!!
I AM SO, SO SORRY FOR THE TROUBLE MY CAT HAS CAUSED!!
FLINCH
ビク!!
FLINCH
ビク!!
WAAAHH!
WAS THAT THE CAT'S OWNER?
SHE RUNS PRETTY FAST.
LOL.
MOW
RICE
GLANCE
チラ
GLANCE
チラ
WE WEREN'T GOING TO! PLEASE GET UP!
WE'RE JUST GLAD HIS OWNER SHOWED UP!
JUST PLEASE, DON'T CALL THE POLICE!
WAAAAH!
I'LL PAY FOR EVERY-THING HE TOUCHED!
AND I'LL CLEAN UP HIS MESS!
NO, PLEASE! I INSIST!
IT'S REALLY ALL RIGHT!
AT LEAST LET ME COM-PENSATE YOU FOR THE RICE BALLS!

GOOD THING I FOUND YOU...
LET'S TAKE A BREAK HERE.
PHEW...
YOU SCARED THE LIFE OUT OF ME...
DASHING OUT THE DOOR LIKE THAT.
YUKICHI...?
.....
.....
YOU MUST HATE HAVING A PATHETIC PERSON LIKE ME FOR AN OWNER.
MAYBE... MAYBE I SHOULD FIND SOMEONE WHO CAN TAKE BETTER CARE OF YOU, INSTEAD.
?!
WOULD IT HAVE BEEN BETTER IF...
I HADN'T FOUND YOU?

I'M SURE YOU'D BE...
HAPPIER THAT WAY.
NO.
I...
YOU'RE WRONG!
I...
I DON'T WISH FOR THAT AT ALL.
RUSTLE
RUSTLE
?!
OOF!

AH!
RUMBLE...
IT MUST, UH...BE BECAUSE I RAN.
HA.はHA.はHA.
O-OKAY, MAYBE I AM HUNGRY.
I DID BUY THIS, BUT IT'S JUST...I'M NOT REALLY IN THE MOOD RIGHT NO--
UM... YOU WANT ME TO EAT THIS?
?
ALL RIGHT, I GUESS I SHOULD EAT.
BA— DMP BA— DMP
PEEL... ドキ
PEEL ドキ

CRUNCH
GULP
!!!
PLIP
PLIP
YUM.
PLIP
WHA...
HIC...
SHOCK
IT'S SO GOOD...

WAAAAH!
わあああああああ...
?!
?!
AHH!
THAT WAS DELI-CIOUS.
AHHH... IT FEELS LIKE IT'S BEEN FOREVER SINCE I'VE EATEN REAL FOOD.
DID YOU RUN AWAY TO BUY DINNER FOR ME?
I'M JUST KIDDING! THERE'S NO WAY.
HA HA HA.
すー
ZZZZ
YUKICHI?
HE'S ASLEEP.
WHAT A FUNNY FACE.
I DETEST THE SNOW.
IT'S COLD.
AND THE COLD KILLS.

IT'S RATHER COMFORTING.
BUT, HEARING MY OWNER CALL MY NAME AMIDST THE FALLING SNOW...
AND FEELING HER WARMTH, HER HEART-BEAT...
YOU FEEL NICE AND WARM, YUKICHI.
FOOLISH HUMAN.
IF YOU SENT ME AWAY...
YOU'D SURELY PERISH FROM THE COLD IN THE BLINK OF AN EYE.

ARE YOU TAKING HIM IN? WHAT'S HIS NAME?
FLINCH
ぎくっ
OH! IS THAT A LITTLE KITTY-CAT I SEE?!
I CAN'T TELL HER THAT I LET HIM ESCAPE THE APARTMENT!
Z
HIS NAME IS YUKICHI.
I HOPE HE GROWS UP HEALTHY AND HAPPY.
OH, SAKU-CHAN! GOOD EVENING.
IT SURE IS COMING DOWN, ISN'T IT?
HELLO... HUH?
YOU'RE NOT USUALLY OUT THIS LATE.
I JUST GOT BACK FROM MY TRIP. THE SNOW CAUSED SOME DELAYS ON THE BUS.
OH, THAT'S RIGHT! I HAVE SOMETHING FOR YOU, IF YOU'D LIKE IT.
SURE?
I HAVE SOME FAMILY IN NIIGATA.
APPARENTLY, THEY HAD A GOOD HARVEST THIS YEAR, AND SO THEY'VE SENT ME SOME CROPS.
KA-THUMP
WOW! THANK YOU SO MUCH!
THERE'S SO MUCH!
THUMP
どし
RICE
ARE YOU ALL RIGHT CARRYING IT?
THAT NIGHT...

ブーーん

TA-DA!

I GREW SO LARGE I COULD COMFORTABLY LOOK DOWN ON THIS PATHETIC HUMAN...

WOW!

COOKED RICE WITH MY OWN PAWS...

AND MADE THE LARGEST RICE BALL EVER.

HE'S CURRENT-LY...

HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH!

うーん

UGHH...

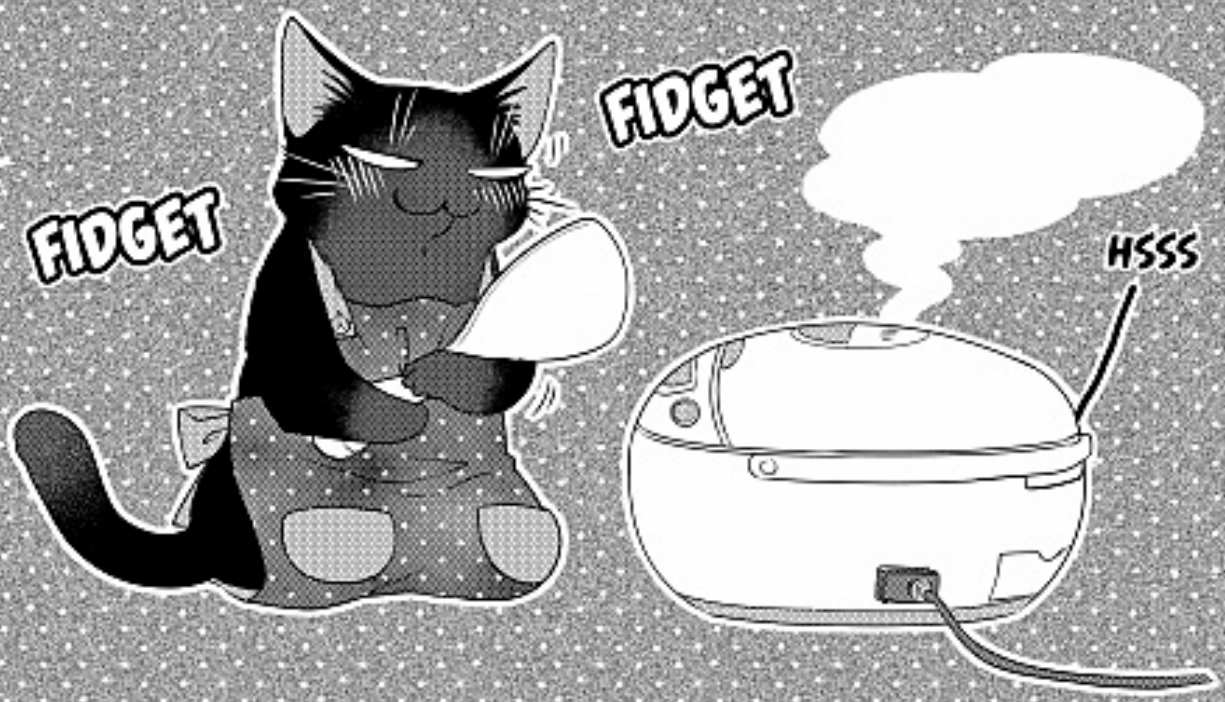
HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH HEH...

DREAMING.

FOUR DAYS LATER.
HEY! TODAY IS RECY-CLABLES!
OWOWOW.
THERE BETTER NOT BE ANY GARBAGE IN THERE!
?!

END

AFTERWORD



THANK YOU FOR READING ALL THE WAY TO THE END OF VOLUME 5! I CAN'T BELIEVE IT'S ALREADY BEEN FIVE VOLUMES. I HOPE THIS VOLUME MADE YOUR HEART MELT!

I REGRET THAT I BARELY GOT TO DRAW THE SEA SLUG SQUAD THIS TIME AROUND. BUT THERE'S ALWAYS NEXT TIME...!

YUKICHI IS STILL A KITTEN IN THIS VOLUME'S BONUS CHAPTER, BUT HE'S ABOUT THE SIZE OF A REGULAR CAT NOW BECAUSE HIS GROWTH SPURT HAS ALREADY BEGUN. HE'S GOING TO KEEP GROWING UNTIL HE REACHES AN ASTOUNDING SIZE, SO LOOK FORWARD TO IT!

WELL, SEE YOU AGAIN IN VOLUME 6!

HITSUZI YAMADA

The Masterful Cat is Depressed Again, Today

The
Masterful
Cat
is
Depressed
Again
Today

I AM A MASTERFUL CAT.

MY NAME IS YUKICHI.

TO BE A MASTERFUL CAT, ONE MUST HAVE PRIDE IN WHAT THEY DO.

ROLLLL テキパキ

TODAY IS ANOTHER DAY OF TAKING CARE OF MY OWNER TO MY UTMOST ABILITY.

SIZZLE

.....

BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP BEEP

ALTHOUGH...

I HAVE LONG SINCE GIVEN UP ON PONDERING...

BEEP BEEP BEEP

BEEP BEEP BEEP

WHAT, PRECISELY, IT MEANS TO BE AN "OWNER."

すやー

ZZZZZZZZ...

I HAVE GROWN UNEXPECTEDLY FOND OF THIS LIFE OF MINE...
WHEREIN I WORRY NOT ABOUT STARVING NOR FREEZING TO DEATH.
NONE-THE-LESS...
EEEEEK!
SO COLD!
バサァ
RIIP
ビクーン
FLINCH
SO, I MUST ADMIT I AM QUITE GRATEFUL FOR THIS WOMAN.
あ!
UGHHHHH!
I DON'T WANNA GO TO WOO-OORK.
I SHOULD JUST QUIT.
JUST KIDDING, HA HA HA...
TONIGHT, YOU SHALL HAVE YOUR BELOVED HAMBURGER STEAK FOR DINNER.
NOW GO, YOU USELESS HUMAN... AND PUT IN ANOTHER HARD DAY'S WORK.
めそ
SOB!
めそ
SOB!
NO, I AM A CAT.
BANG
ドーン
YOU MONSTER !!
PAFF
パー
PAFF
パー
ドーン
BANG

SEVEN SEAS ENTERTAINMENT PRESENTS

The Masterful Cat is Depressed Again Today

story and art by HITSUZI YAMADA VOLUME 5

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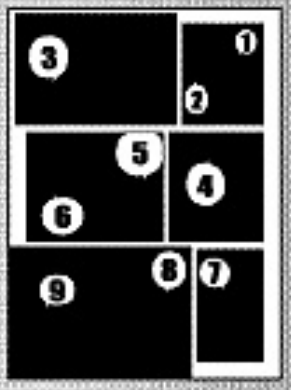
READING DIRECTIONS

This book reads from *right to left*, Japanese style. If this is your first time reading manga, you start reading from the top right panel on each page and take it from there. If you get lost, just follow the numbered diagram here. It may seem backwards at first, but you'll get the hang of it! Have fun!!



New Year, Same Cat!

Seven Seas Entertainment
sevenseasentertainment.com

TEEN (13+)

Saku is looking forward to spending her New Year's holiday vegging out and eating Yukichi's delicious home cooking, but that plan goes out the window when her mom calls, demanding that Saku come visit! Saku doesn't want to leave Yukichi home alone, so she decides to bring him with her! But how will she hide her giant cat from her parents?!